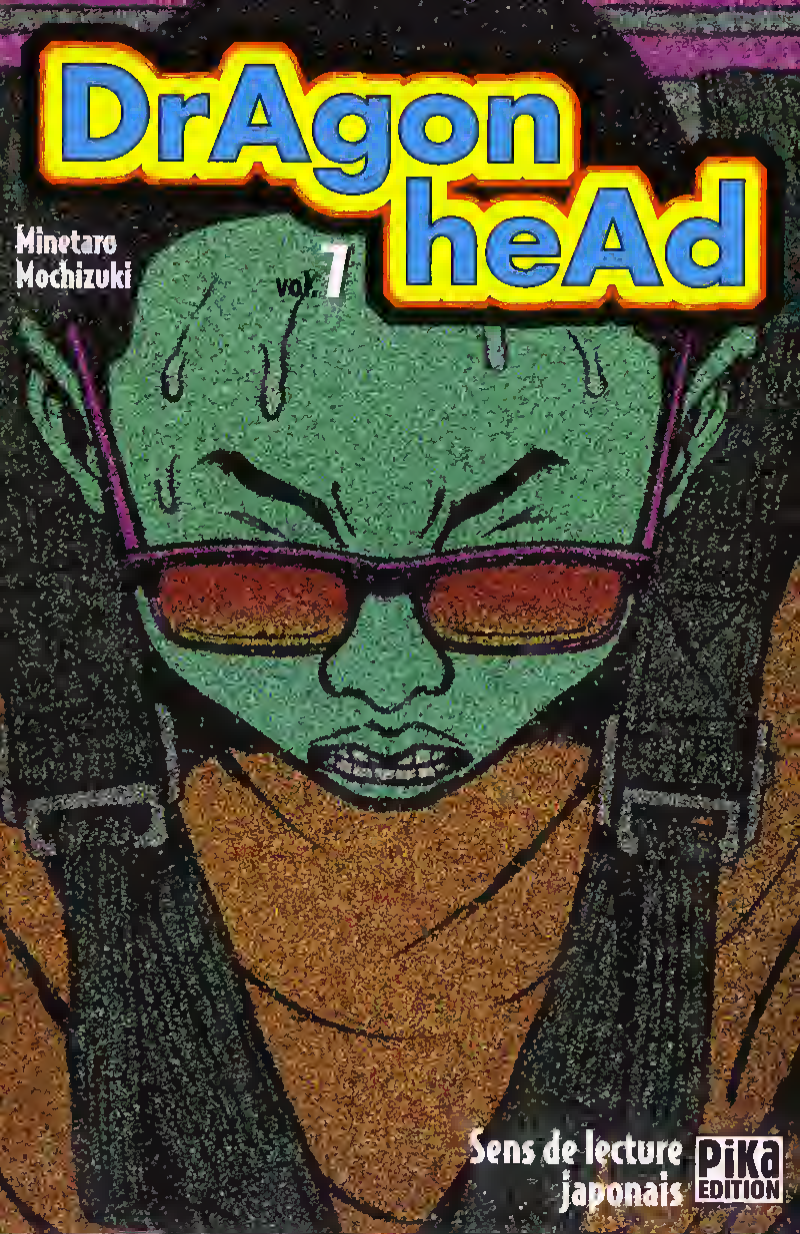
BLACKOUT

ILLUMINATI-MANGA


DrAgon heAd
Minetaro Mochizuki
vol. 7
Sens de lecture japonais
PiKa EDITION

DrAgon heAd

MINETARO MOCHIZUKI

Vol. 7

CONTENT

Chapter 65 : The escape

Chapter 66 : The explosion

Chapter 67 : Teru regains consciousness

Chapter 68 : The departure

Chapter 69 : In the middle of the ash cloud

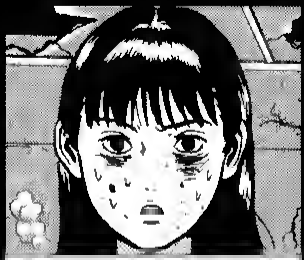
Chapter 70 : An endless pit

Chapter 71 : The mall

THE CHARACTERS



TERU



AKO



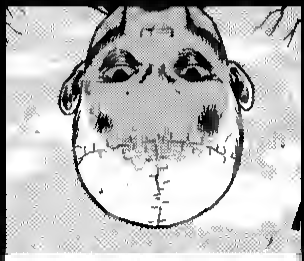
IWADA



NIMURA



THE WOMAN



A STRANGE BOY


VOO
OOO
OOO
OH
H
DOM!
H
BATAH
PAN
VOOO
HHH

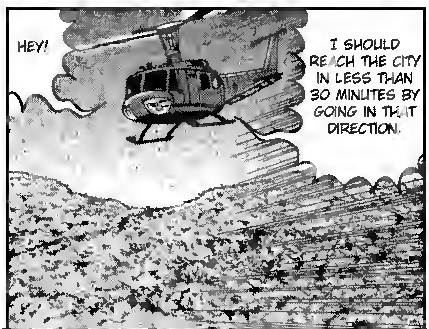

DAH
BOM
BOM
BOM
BOM
AAH!
!?
FHH
FHH
TAN
TAH
TAN
TAC
TAN
TAH
TAH
I HAVE TO GET OUTTA HERE!
THESE GUYS ARE ALL SICK!
I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT
SHIT!

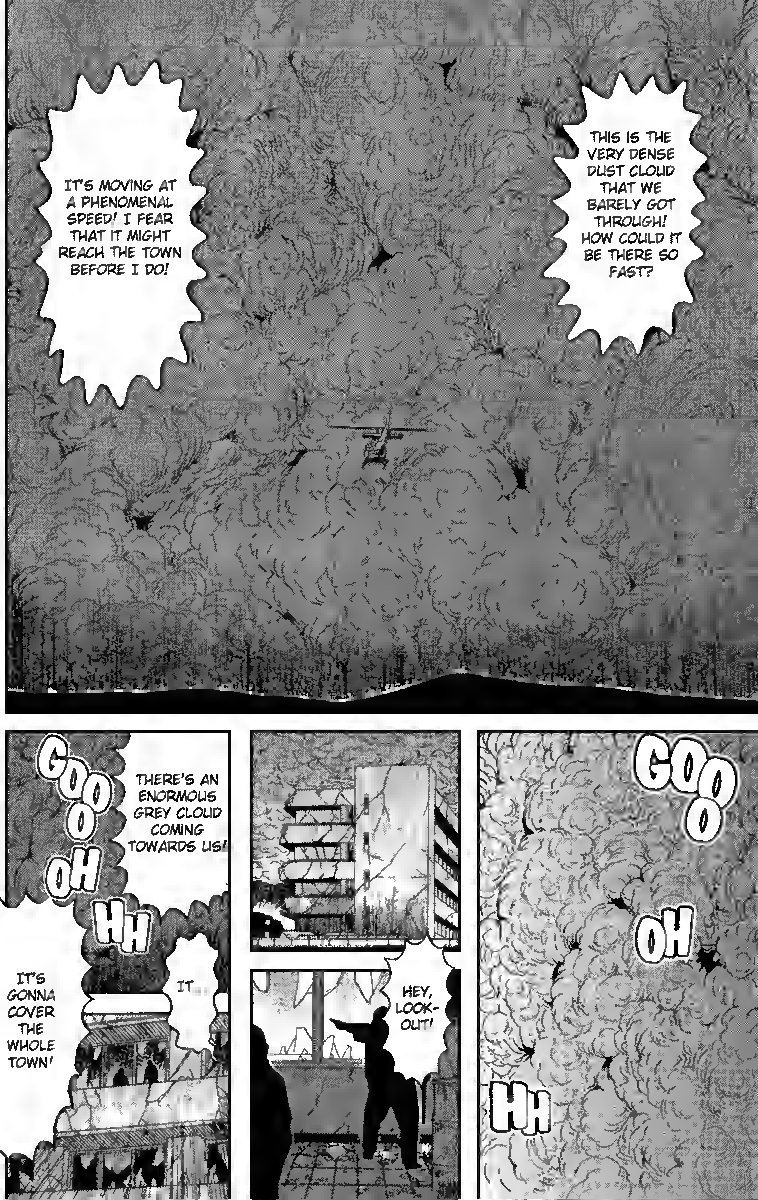

HM
MM
FHH
DAH
SAH
FHH
FHH
BLANG
BANG
BLAM
VRRR

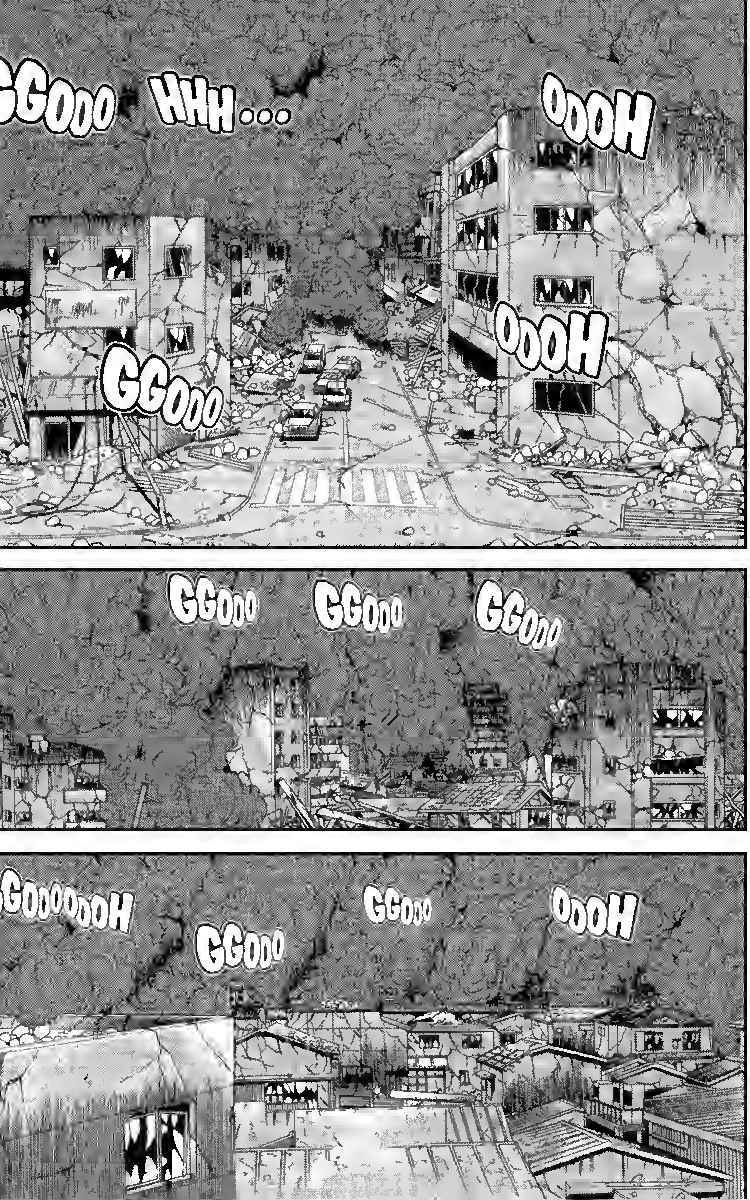

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THIS FUCKIN' BIKE WON'T START!
IT'S A FREAKIN' NIGHTMARE! COME ON! YOU GOTTA START!
VRRRRRHH
VRRRRR

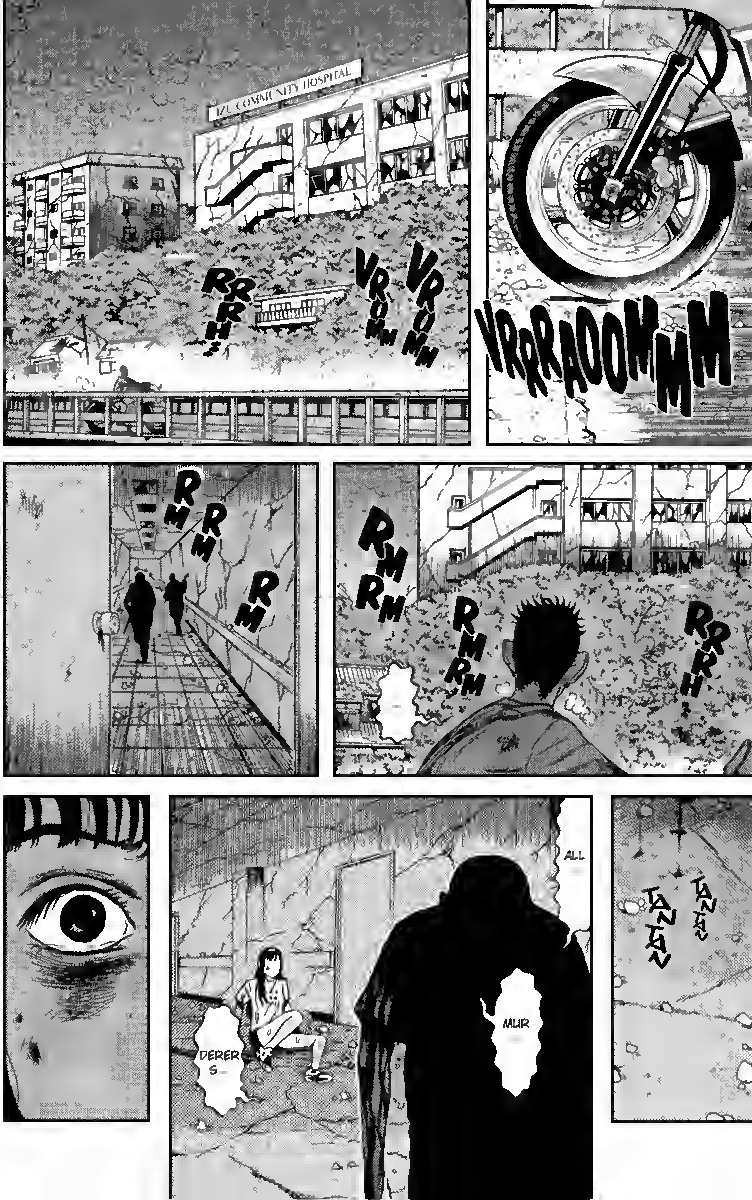

VR
R
OOOOO
OOM M M
I AM ON MY WAY OUT !
Kawasaki
Ninja
PERFECT!
TILL NOW EVERYTHING WAS FINE. I JUST PASSED OVER THE LITTLE LAKE NOW ACCORDING TO THE MAP.
CHAPTER 65
THE ESCAPE


BUT ...
WHAT'S THIS!?

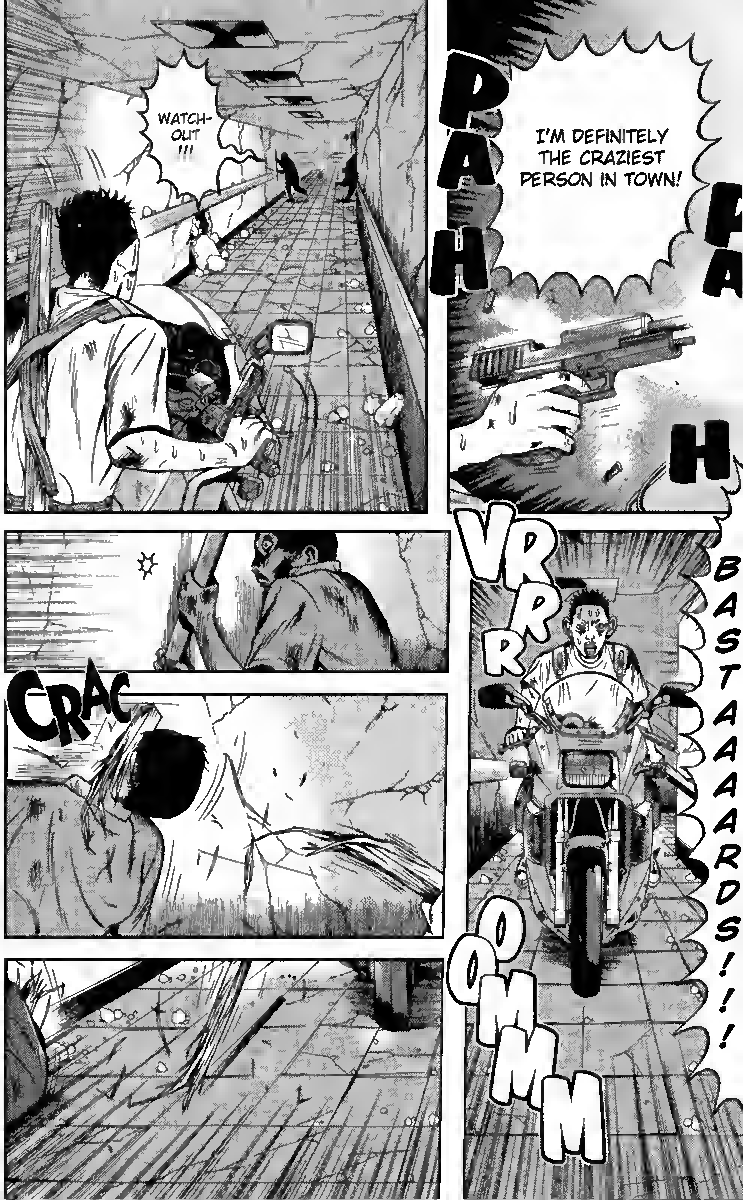

HEY!
I SHOULD REACH THE CITY IN LESS THAN 30 MINUTES BY GOING IN THAT DIRECTION.


IT'S MOVING AT A PHENOMENAL SPEED! I FEAR THAT IT MIGHT REACH THE TOWN BEFORE I DO!
THIS IS THE VERY DENSE DUST CLOUD THAT WE BARELY GOT THROUGH! HOW COULD IT BE THERE SO FAST?
GOOOOHH
THERE'S AN ENORMOUS GREY CLOUD COMING TOWARDS US!
IT'S GONNA COVER THE WHOLE TOWN!
IT
HEY, LOOK-OUT!
GOOOOHH


GGODO
HHH...
ODOH
ODOH
GGODO
GGODO
GGODO
GGODO
GGOOODOH
GGODO
GGOOO
ODOH


IZL COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
RRRH
VROMM
VROMM
VRRRAOOMMM
RMRH
RMRH
RM
RMRH
RMRM
RMRH
RRRH
ALL
MUR
DERER
S...
IANIAN
IANIAN


RMM
WHICH SIDE DID THEY CHOOSE!?
WHERE ARE THEY!?
AND SO ARE YOU!
RMM
RMM
VRROOM
WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
RROO
I SHOULD HAVE LEFT ON MY OWN AND FORGOTTEN ABOUT THIS KID!
VRRDAHHH
VRRRUMM
HOLY SHIT! I'M A FUCKIN' ASSHOLE!
VRROOM

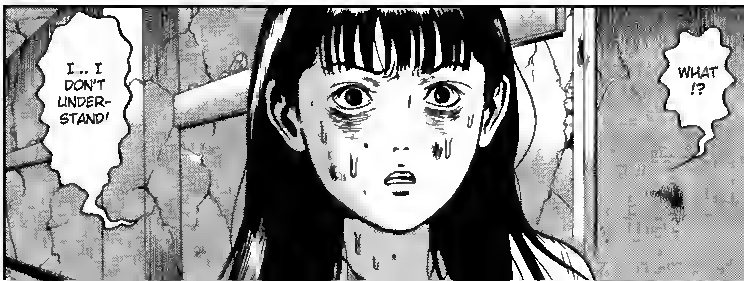

WATCH-OUT !!!
I'M DEFINITELY THE CRAZIEST PERSON IN TOWN!
HA HA HA
VRRR
BASTAAAARDS!!!
CRAC
OOMMM


SBOOOOM
I'M GONNA SHOOT THEM DOWN!
VRRAAAAMOOM
VRR
HHAAAAA!
DAN
DAN
SBLIIIGGN
BEFORE I WAS... THE SAME AS YOU
ME, TOO...
BUT... I KNOW
...
AND THEN... EVERY-THING... CHANGED.
I WAS FEELING FEAR... I WAS FEELING HURT.
THAT... YOU CAN'T... BE BLAMED FOR ALL THIS...

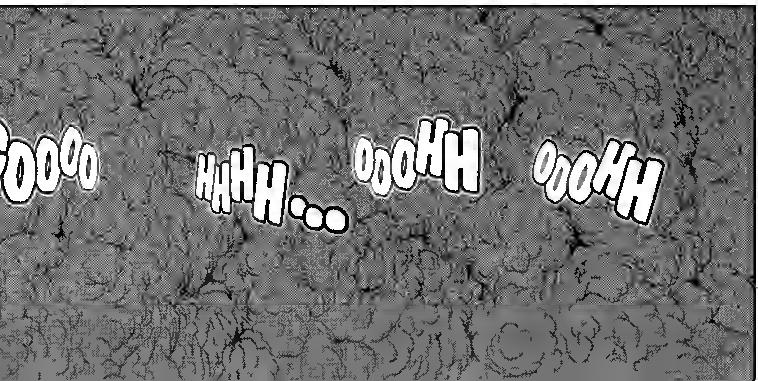

NOW...
VERY WELL...

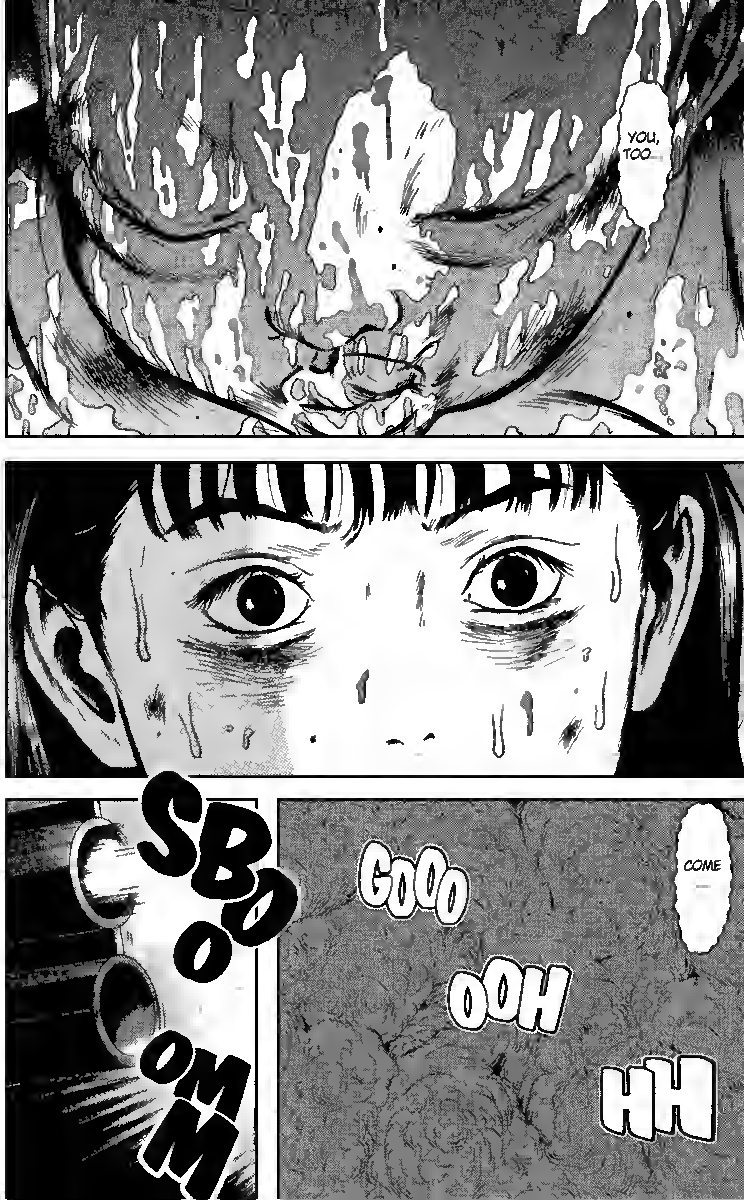

I'M
....


BECOME... LIKE ME!
DO... THE SAME AS ME


I... I DON'T UNDER-STAND!
WHAT!?


COME... WITH ME... TO A PEACEFUL WORLD... A QUIET WORLD..
A WORLD WHERE... THERE'S NO MORE FEAR... NO MORE HURT..


OOOO
HHHH...
OOOHH
OOOHH

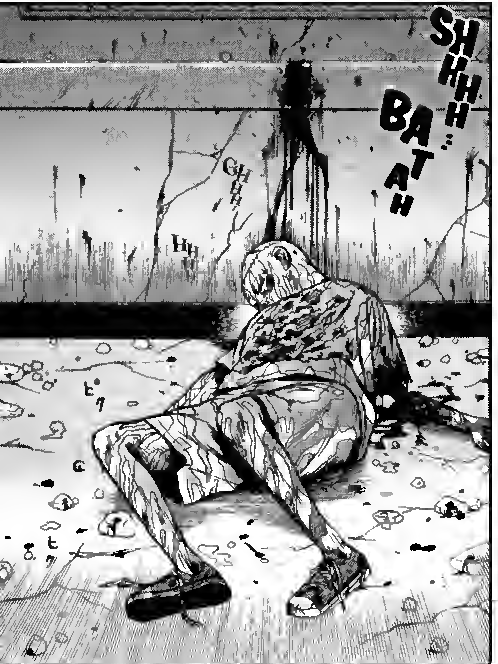

YOU, TOO...
COME
GOOO
OOH
HH
SBO
OM


VRRAAAOOMM
BA
TA
MM
A
PAC
RR RA AC

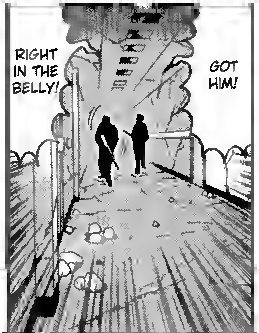

GET DOWN !!!
SBO
OOM


BO
TO
M


TAH
TAH
TAH
TAH
TAH

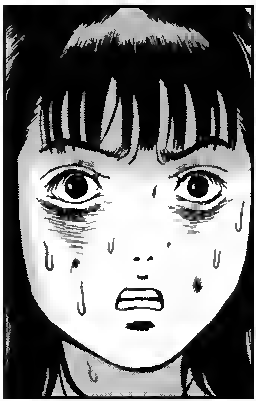

SHHH
BATAH
GHH
HH

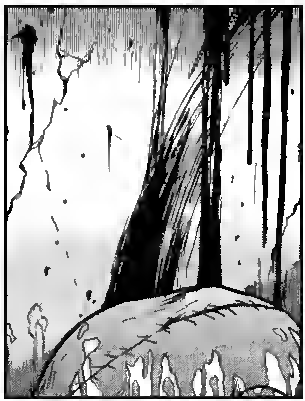

HEY!


RIGHT IN THE BELLY!
GOT HIM!












PA
H
PA
DA
PA
H-H
DAH
AND SHIT!
HHHHHHAAAAAAA!!!
NOOOOO! WHY!?
VR
MMM
OR
VRKOM
C'MON, WE'RE GOING NOW!
SO WHAT, ARE YOU COMING OR NOT?
THIS IS THE END FOR HIM!
NOOOOOOOOO!!!

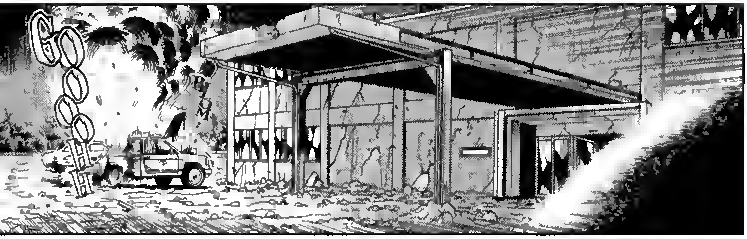

HURRY!
ASSASSIN!
VRRROM
RRROM
RRROM
VRROM RROM
THIS BOY
VRRAOM
IT WAS LIKE HE WAS LIVING IN ANOTHER WORLD! HE ISN'T HERE ANYMORE...
I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING TO SAVE HIM...
GOOH
GOOH
OOOH
GOOH
OOOH
GOOH
EXCUSE ME! I'M SORRY!
HEY, GUYS!
WHAT'S THIS!?


WE
THIS IS THE END
WE CAN'T DO ANY-THING!
BLANG
DOH
GDOOOOHHH
GDOOOOHHH


VRROOM
RROOM

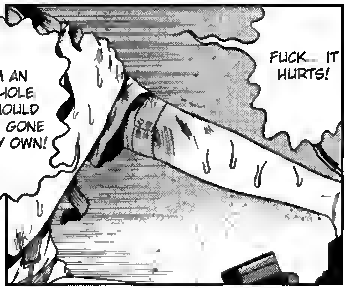

MM
WHY IS IT SO DARK ALL OF A SUDDEN!?
MMH ...
ISN'T IT FAMILIAR TO YOU!? WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS A SHORT TIME AGO!
VRRRAOOOMM
RROOMMM


FHH
...
SAH
!?
IIIKK
CLIC
CLIC CLIC
PAN
PAN
PAN
COME ON!
BOOH!
BLA
RAM
FHH
THIS WAY, THE GUYS IN THE HOSPI-TAL WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FOLLOW US...
VROOOOMM

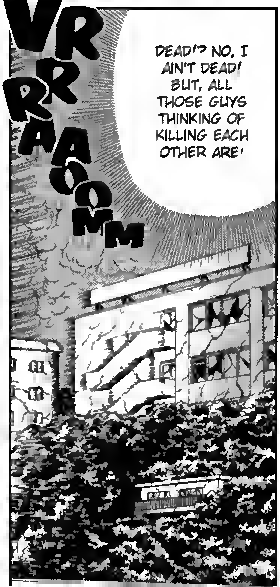

GOOOOH


IT'S AS IF WE ARE ALREADY DEAD...
...

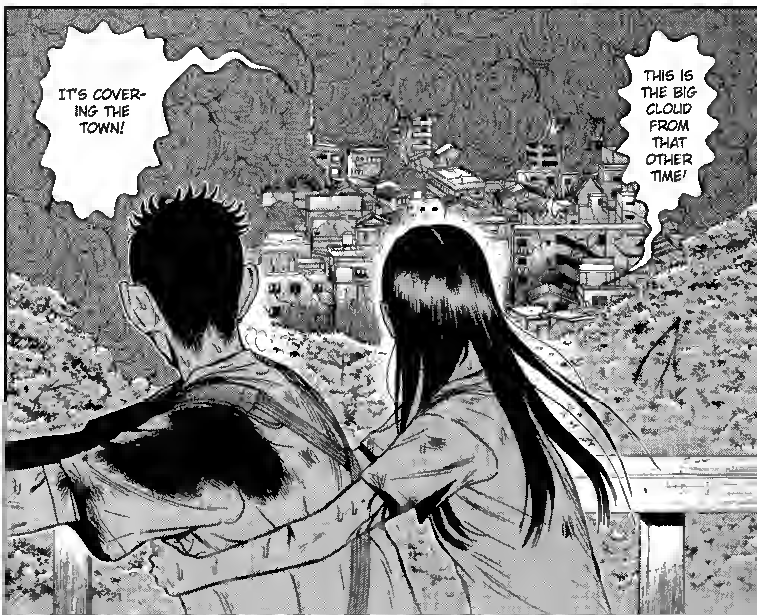

MM
I'M AN ASSHOLE I SHOULD HAVE GONE ON MY OWN!

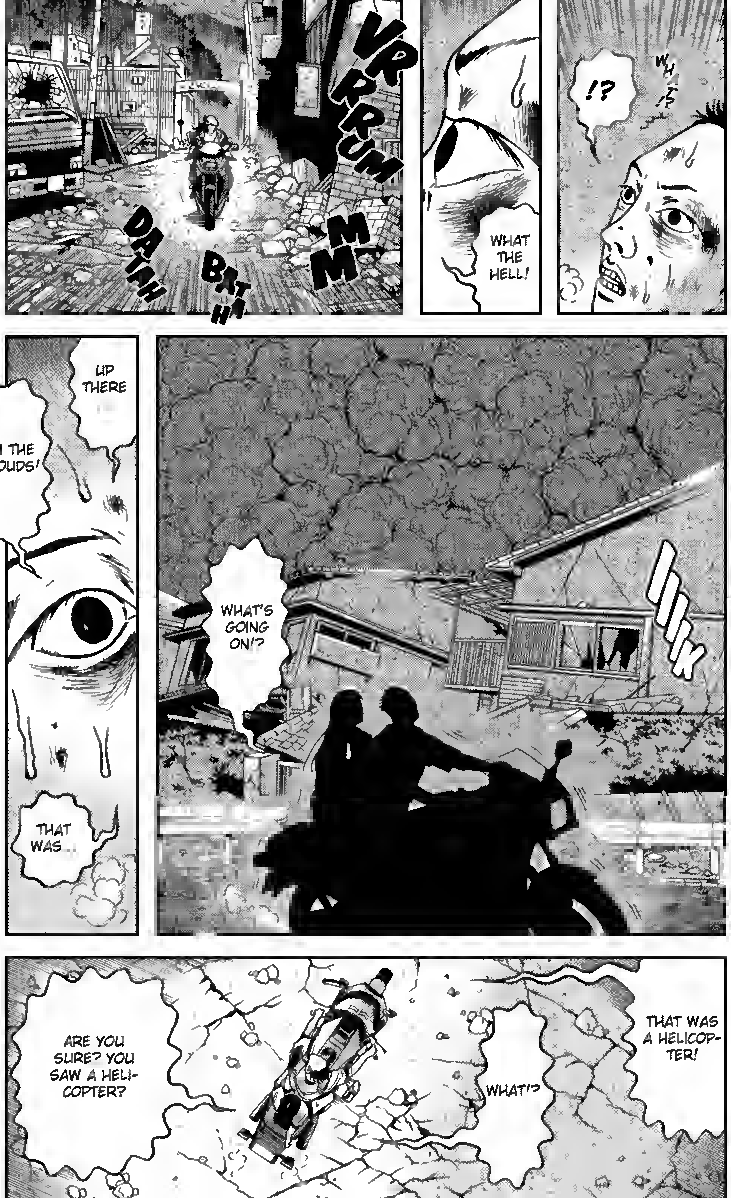

FUCK... IT HURTS!

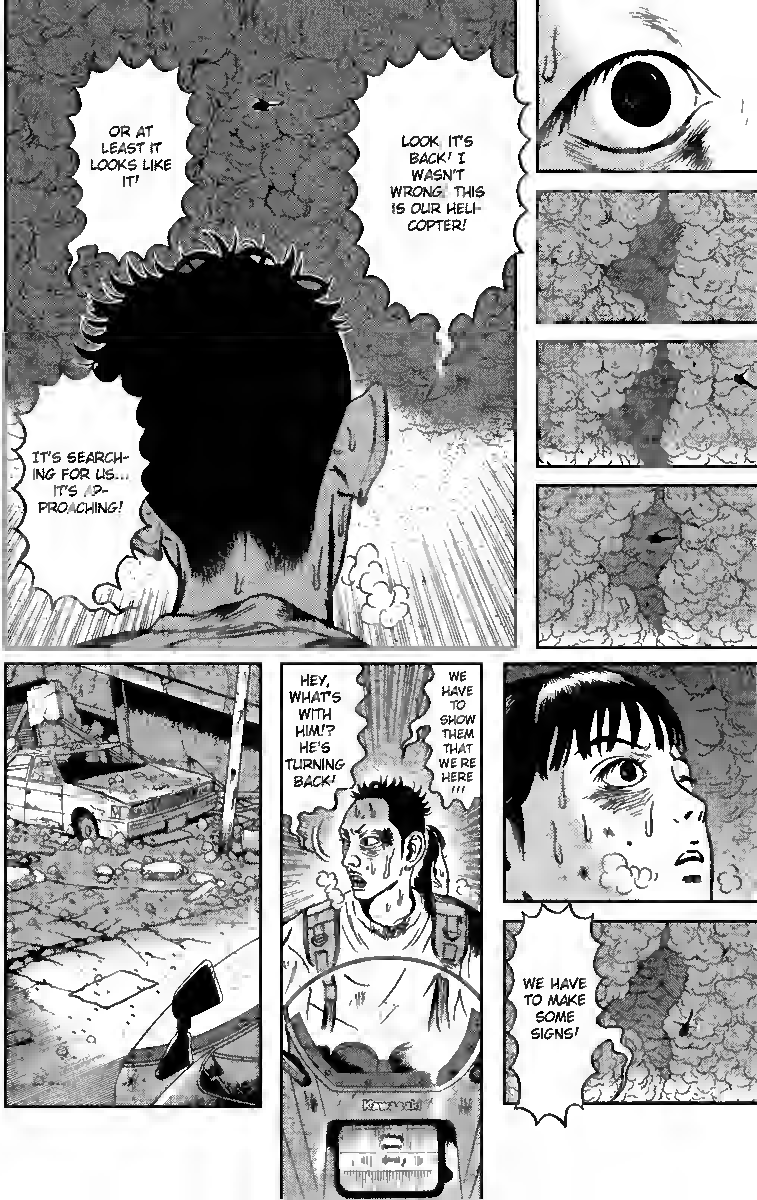

VRRROOMM
THAT'S TRUE I DON'T KNOW WHERE WE'LL GO, OR WHAT THE WORLD WILL BE LIKE... AND I DON'T HAVE MUCH HOPE LEFT. BUT I'M NOT LIKE THOSE GUYS, WHO ONLY THINK ABOUT KILLING ANYONE THAT CROSSES THEIR PATH!
Ninja


VRRAOOMM
DEAD!? NO, I AIN'T DEAD! BUT, ALL THOSE GUYS THINKING OF KILLING EACH OTHER ARE!

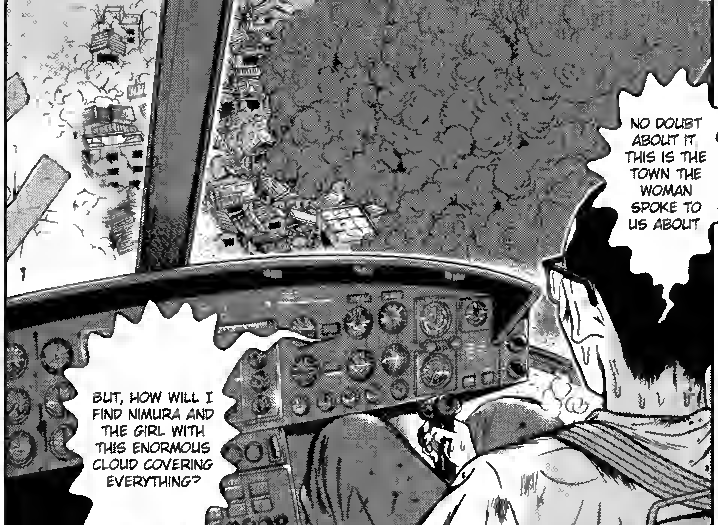

I REALLY DO!
GOOOOHH
BECAUSE, I FEAR DEATH!
!!!
THIS IS DUST!
RUM
RUM
BUT
HAT
HAT
!?
TAH
TAH

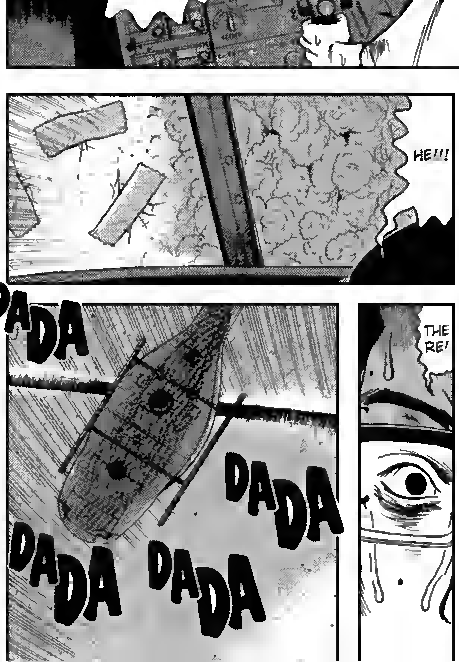

IT'S COVERING THE TOWN!
THIS IS THE BIG CLOUD FROM THAT OTHER TIME!

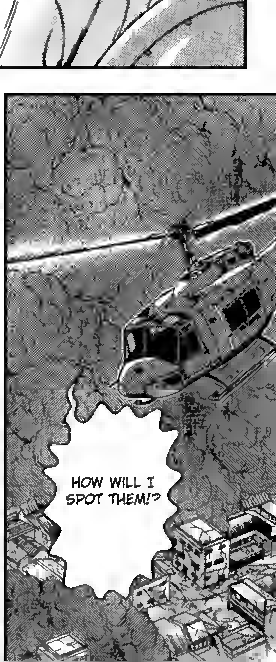

VRRUM
MM
DAH!!
BAH!!
!?
WHAT THE HELL!
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
IIIK
UP THERE
IN THE CLOUDS!
THAT WAS...
ARE YOU SURE? YOU SAW A HELI-COPTER?
WHAT!?
THAT WAS A HELICOP-TER!

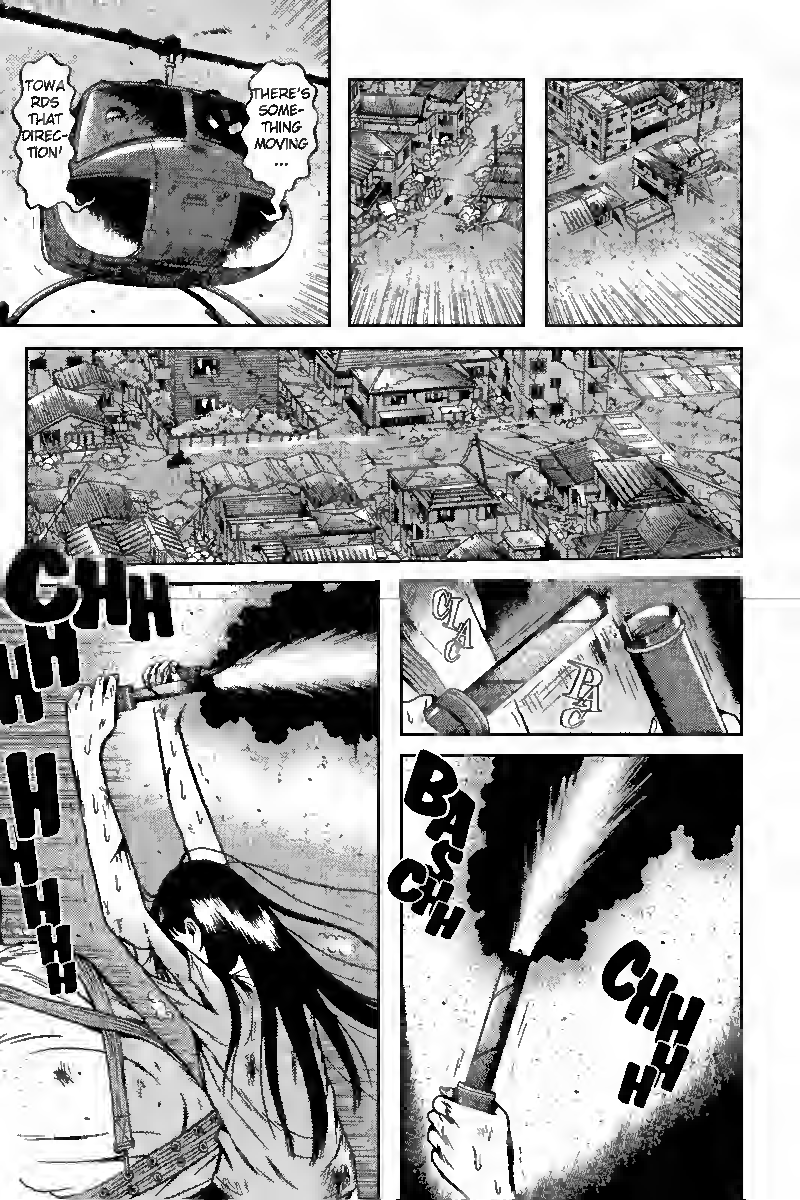

OR AT LEAST IT LOOKS LIKE IT!
LOOK, IT'S BACK! I WASN'T WRONG. THIS IS OUR HELICOPTER!
IT'S SEARCHING FOR US... IT'S APPROACHING!
HEY, WHAT'S WITH HIM!? HE'S TURNING BACK!
WE HAVE TO SHOW THEM THAT WE'RE HERE!!!
WE HAVE TO MAKE SOME SIGNS!


TA
H
DAH
BR
LA
MM
HHAA!
WHAT?
THERE SHOULD BE OTHERS IN THE CARS THAT HAVE BEEN ABANDONED HERE! WE HAVE TO HURRY!
GOOD! I FOUND SOME!
!!!
DA
DA
DA
DA
DA
DA
DA


NO DOUBT ABOUT IT THIS IS THE TOWN THE WOMAN SPOKE TO US ABOUT
BUT, HOW WILL I FIND NIMURA AND THE GIRL WITH THIS ENORMOUS CLOUD COVERING EVERYTHING?


HE!!!
DADA
DADA
DADA
DADA
THE RE!

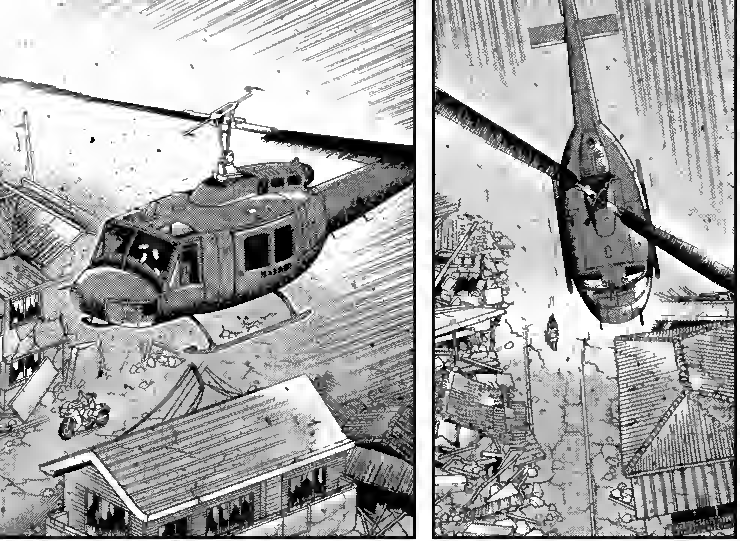

HOW WILL I SPOT THEM!?

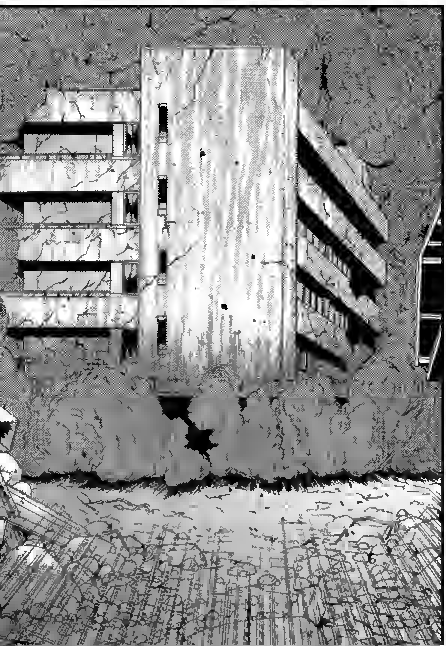

TOWARDS THAT DIRECTION!
THERE'S SOMETHING MOVING ...
CHHHHHHHH
CLACK
BASCHH
CHHHH


GOOOCHHHH
GOOOCHHHH
GOOOCHHHH
FSCHHHH


THAT'S A MOTOR-BIKE! LOOKS LIKE THERE ARE TWO PEOPLE ON IT!
DA DA
DA DA
DA DA
DA DA
DA DA
Ninja

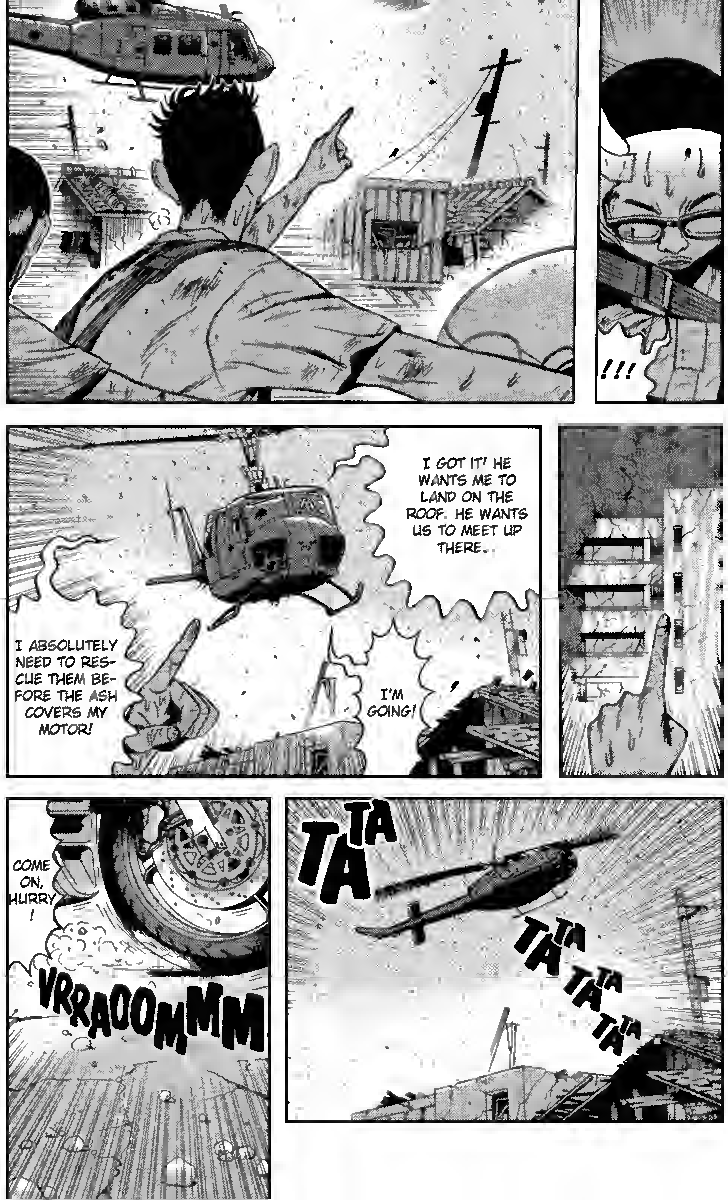

DA
HA
!!!
THEY'RE ALIVE! BOTH OF THEM MADE IT!
IT'S NIMURA AND THE GIRL! I FOUND THEM!
DA
DA
DA
DA
I'LL NEVER FIND A CLEAR PLACE TO LAND!
HE'S POINTING HIS FINGER AHEAD
WHAT?
HE'S TRYING TO SAY SOMETHING...
!?

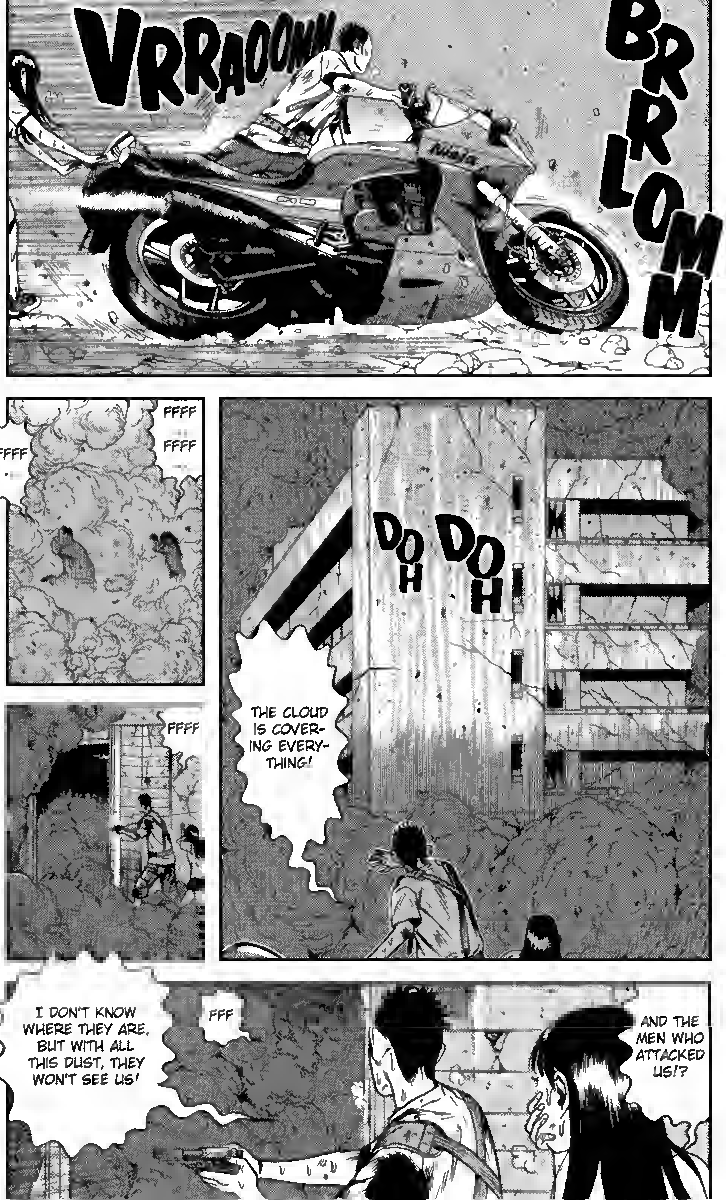


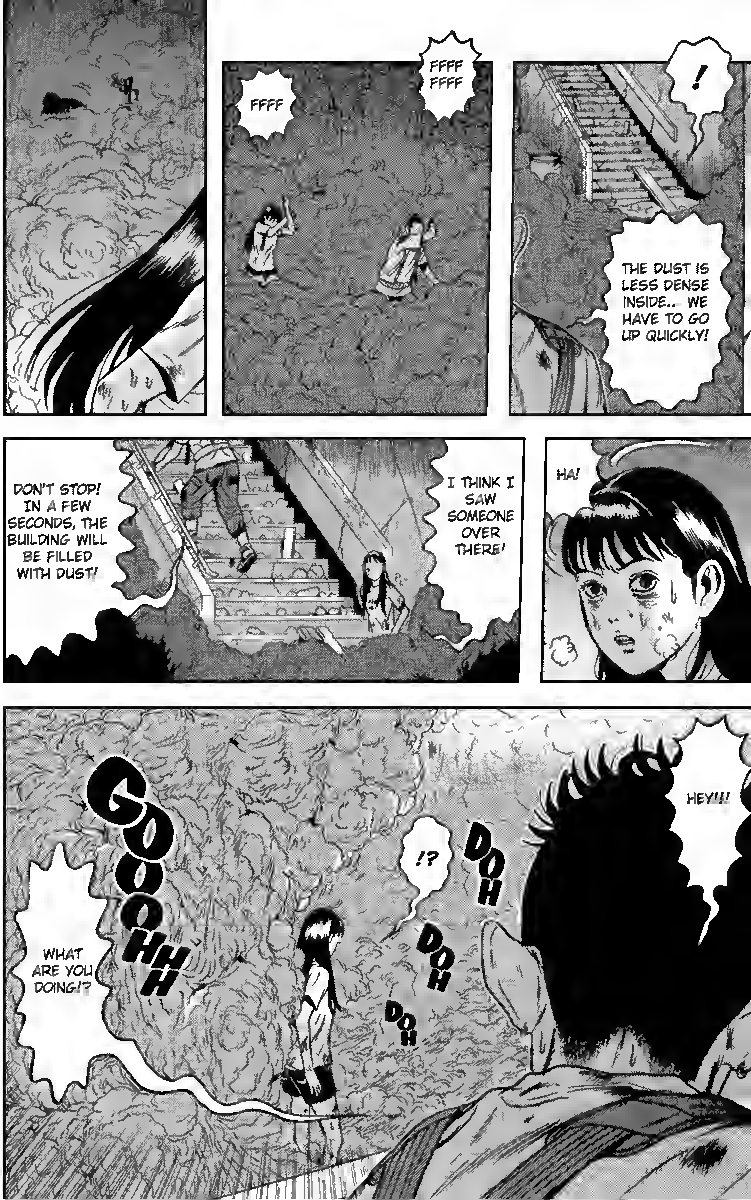




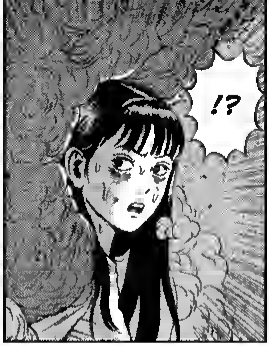

!!!
THIS BUILDING!?


!!!
I GOT IT! HE WANTS ME TO LAND ON THE ROOF. HE WANTS US TO MEET UP THERE..
I ABSOLUTELY NEED TO RESCUE THEM BEFORE THE ASH COVERS MY MOTOR!
I'M GOING!
COME ON, HURRY!
VRRAOOMMM
TA TA
TA TA TA TA


VRRAOOM
BRRLOMM
FFFF
FFFF
FFFF
DOH DOH
THE CLOUD IS COVERING EVERYTHING!
FFFF
I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY ARE, BUT WITH ALL THIS DUST, THEY WON'T SEE US!
FFF
AND THE MEN WHO ATTACKED US!?

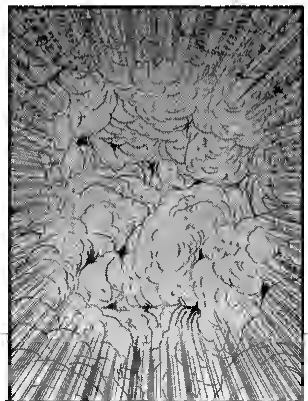

FFFF
FFFF
FFFF
!
THE DUST IS LESS DENSE INSIDE.. WE HAVE TO GO UP QUICKLY!
I THINK I SAW SOMEONE OVER THERE!
DON'T STOP! IN A FEW SECONDS, THE BUILDING WILL BE FILLED WITH DUST!
HA!
HEY!!!
!?
DOH
DOH
DOH
GOOHH
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?


AAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHH
GOHOH
CHAPTER 66 The explosion


!?

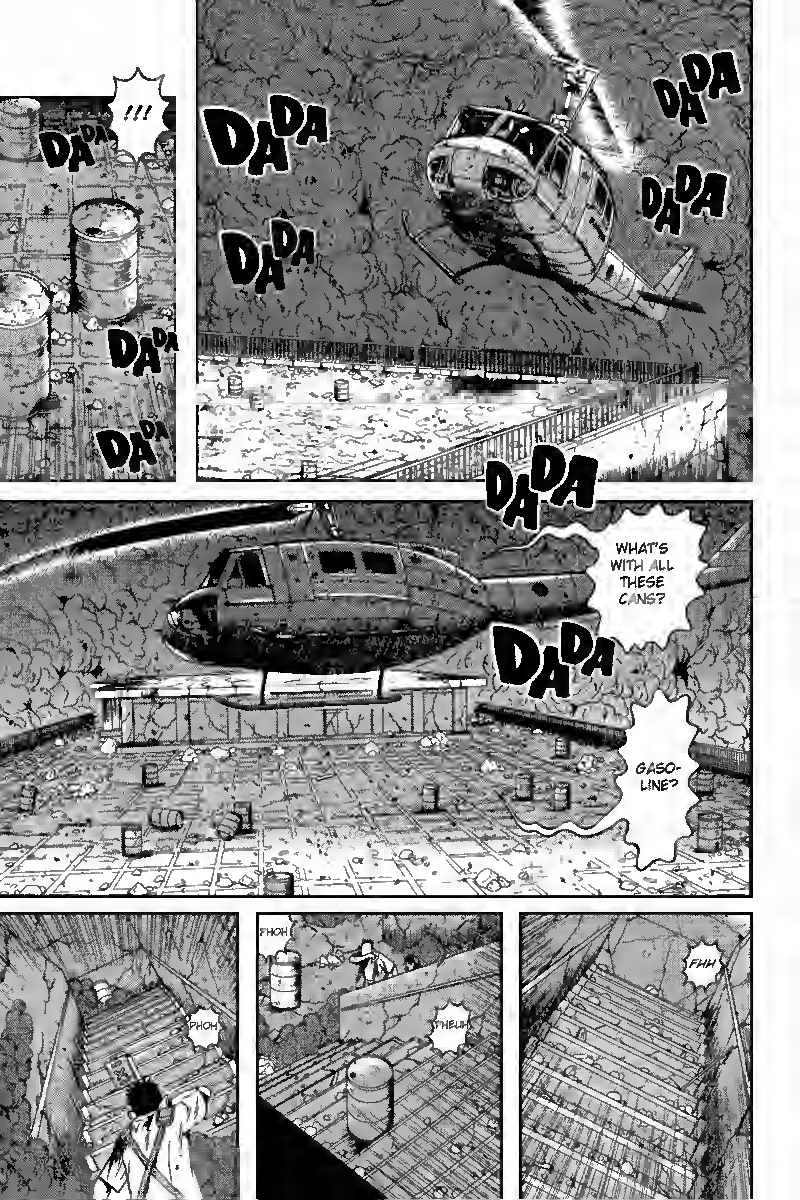

WHAT...







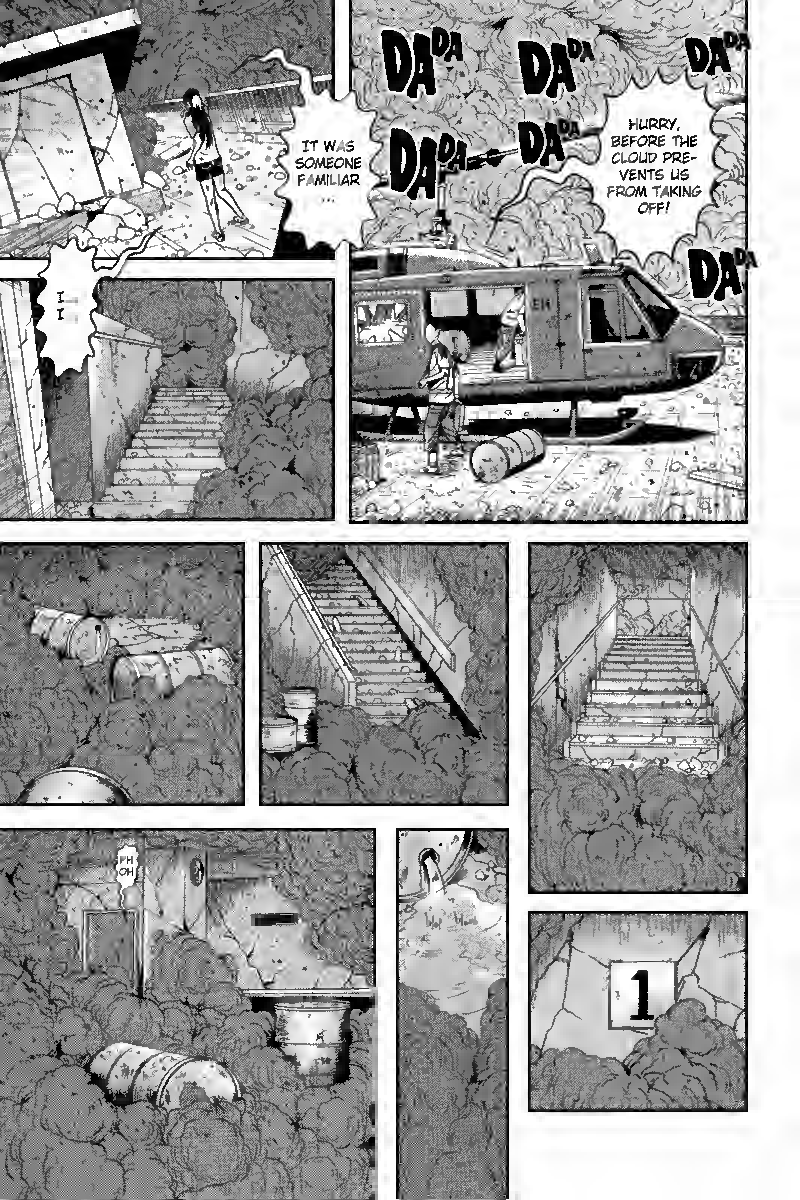

BRUMM
GOOOHHH
BATAH
GATAH
IN A FEW SECONDS, EVERY-THING WILL BE COVERED!
THEY NEED TO GET HERE BEFORE THAT!
PHOH PHOH PHEUH
YOU WANNA DIE OR WHAT!? WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO LOSE!
PHOH
PHEUH PHEUH
C'MON, WE GOTTA REACH THE ROOF!!


!!!
DADA
DADA
DADA
DADA
DADA
DADA
DADA
DADA
WHAT'S WITH ALL THESE CANS?
GASO-LINE?
PHOH
PHOH
THEUH
FHH

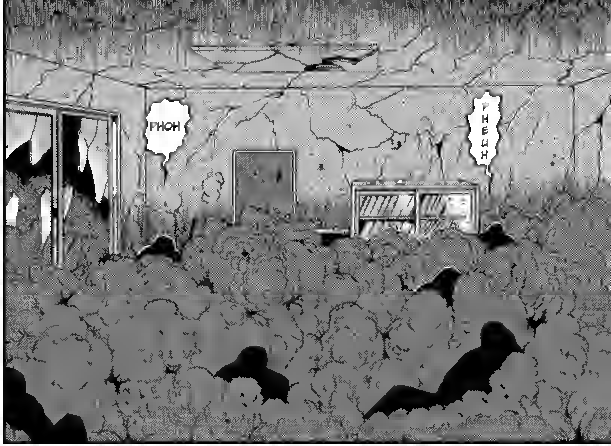

BL
OM
HAH
PHOH
PHEUH
NIMURA
!?
DA DA
DA DA
DA DA
!!!
DA DA
DA DA
DA DA
WE HAVE TO TAKE THESE GASOLINE CANS WITH US!
FHH
HAH
DA DA
DA DA
DA DA
BL
ANG


EH!
DADA DADA DADA
PHEUH
PHOH
?
AAFF
OHOOOHH!
I WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR THE ATTENTION!
DADA DADA
FHH FHH
YOU BASTARD! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SENT ME HERE!
SBL
MO
DADA DADA


DADA
FHH-
HE HE
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU? AIN'T FEELING WELL?
DADA
YOU'VE ALSO BEEN HURT! HA, HA... IT SEEMS IT HAS NOT BEEN EASY FOR ANY OF US TO GET HERE, HAS IT?
BOOM
OUTTA LUCK, BUT WE STILL FOUND THE GASOLINE WE WERE LACKING! EVEN SPECIAL GASOLINE FOR HELICOPTER!
DADA
DADA
HEH
MM
DADA
DADA
C'MON! HELP ME LOAD SOME OF THE CANS
DADA
I SAW SOMEONE MOVING INSIDE, AND...
BUT... I'M SURE I SAW SOMEONE!
HEY, WATCHA DOIN'!? ALWAYS LAGGIN' BEHIND... HURRY UP AND GET IN THE HELICOPTER!

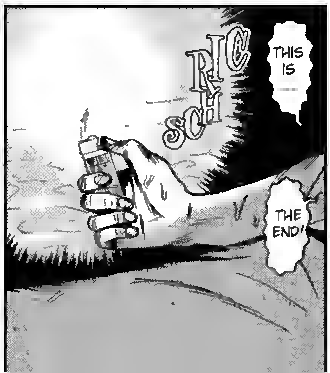

IT WAS SOMEONE FAMILIAR ...
DA DA DA DA DA DA DA DA DA
HURRY, BEFORE THE CLOUD PREVENTS US FROM TAKING OFF!
E14
I I
PH OH
1

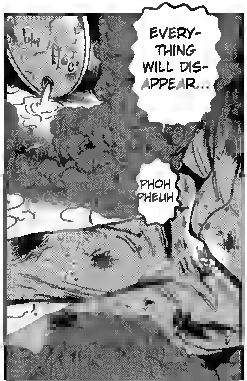

PHOH


PHOH
PHEHH

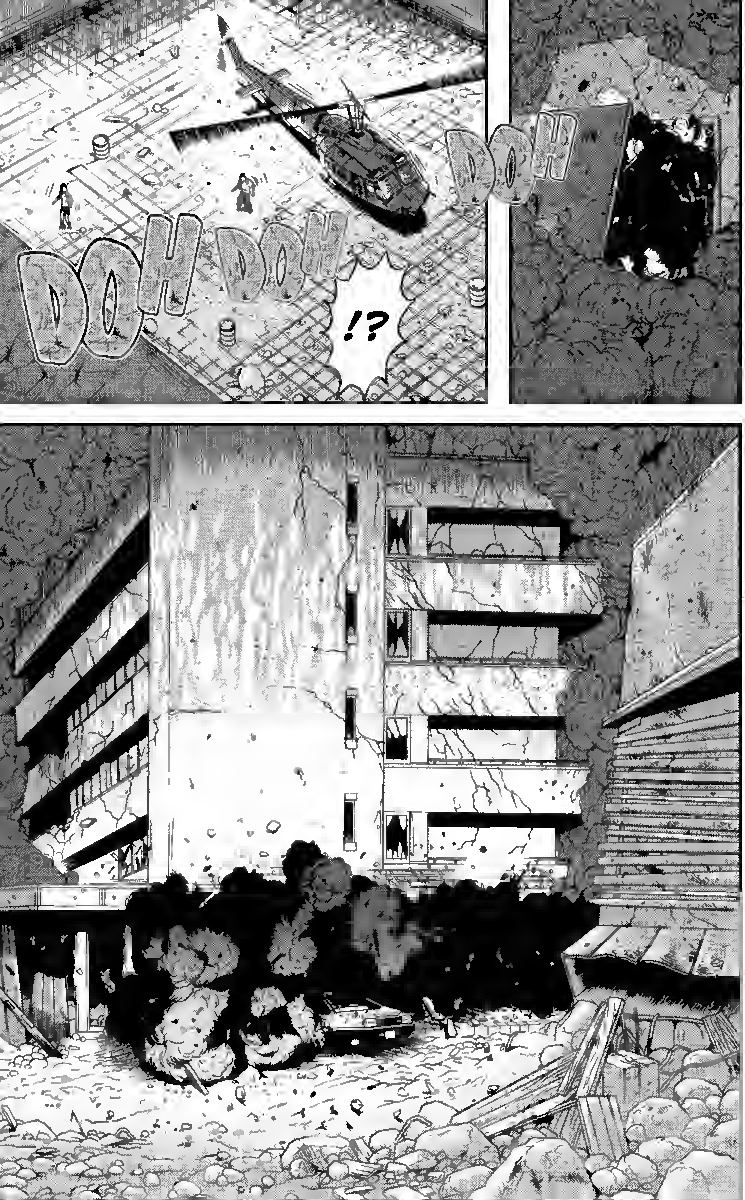

GOOOHHH
IS COVERED
PHELIH PHELIH
THE WHOLE TOWN
HERE'S WHAT I HAD BEEN WAIT-ING FOR...

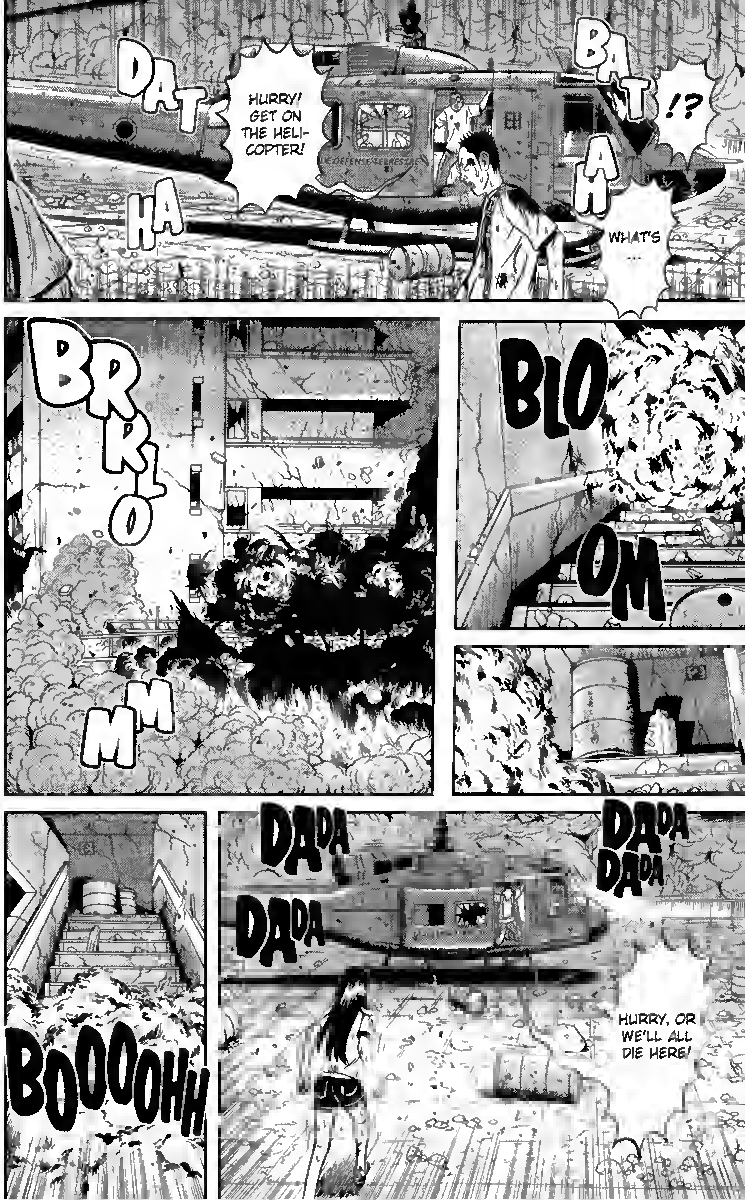



THIS IS
THE END!

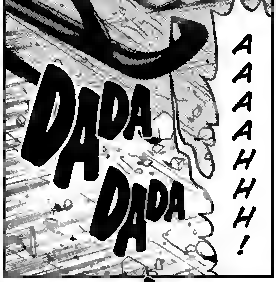

EVERY-THING WILL DIS-APPEAR...
PHOH PHELIH

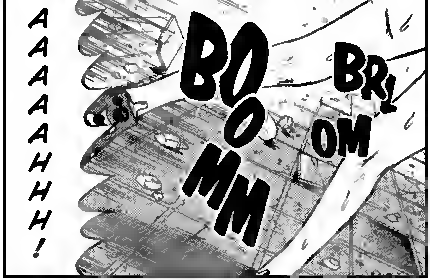

FROM THE BEGIN-NING...

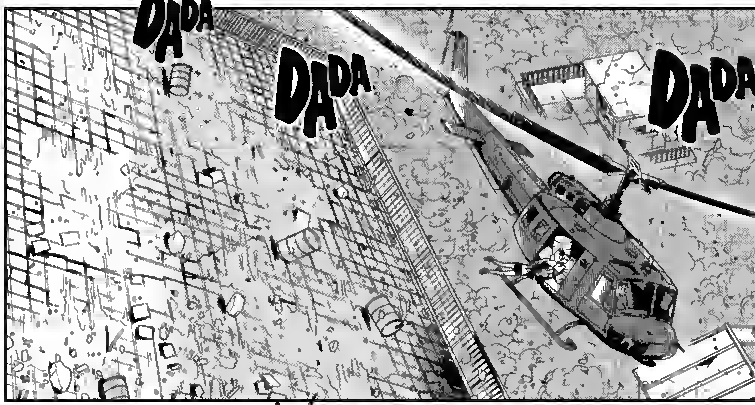

DOH DOH
!?
DOH


DAT
HA
HURRY! GET ON THE HELI-COPTER!
BA
T
A
H
!?
WHAT'S
BR
K
L
O
M
M
BLO
OM
BOOOOHH
DADA
DADA
DADA
DADA
HURRY, OR WE'LL ALL DIE HERE!

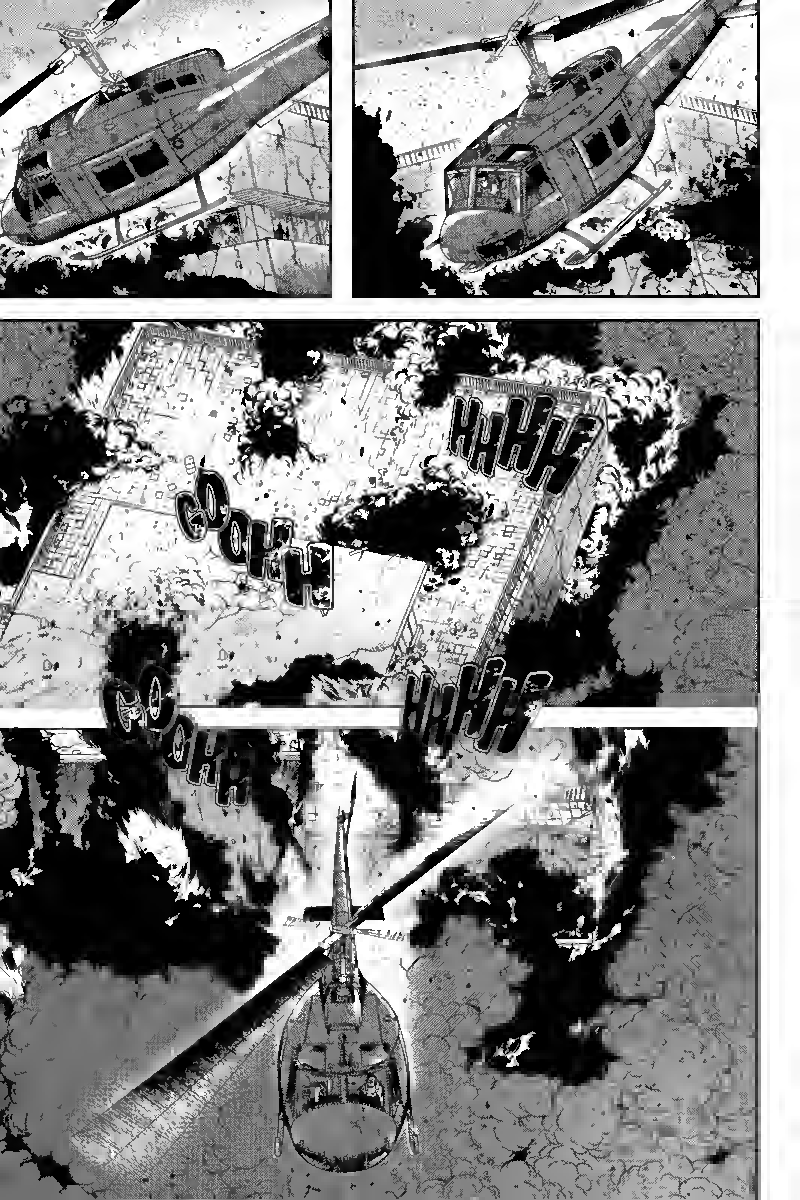
BRRR



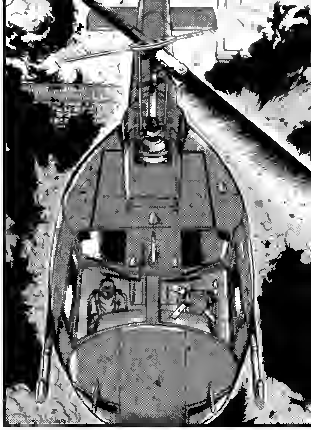


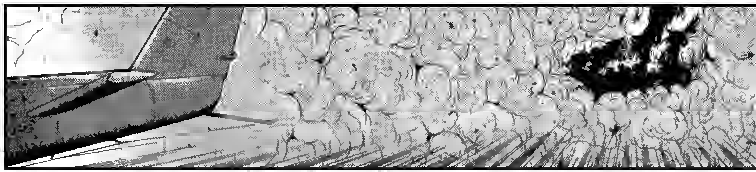



AAAAHHH!
BATAH
DDDD

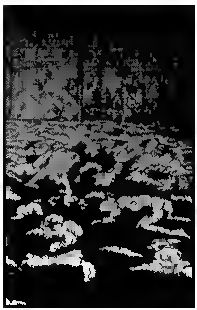

HHHR
GOOHR
HHHR
GOOHR

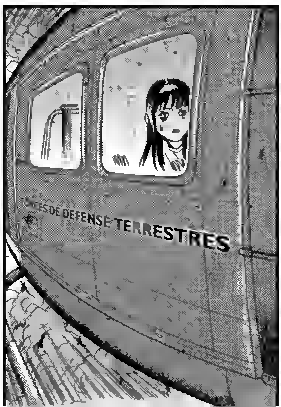




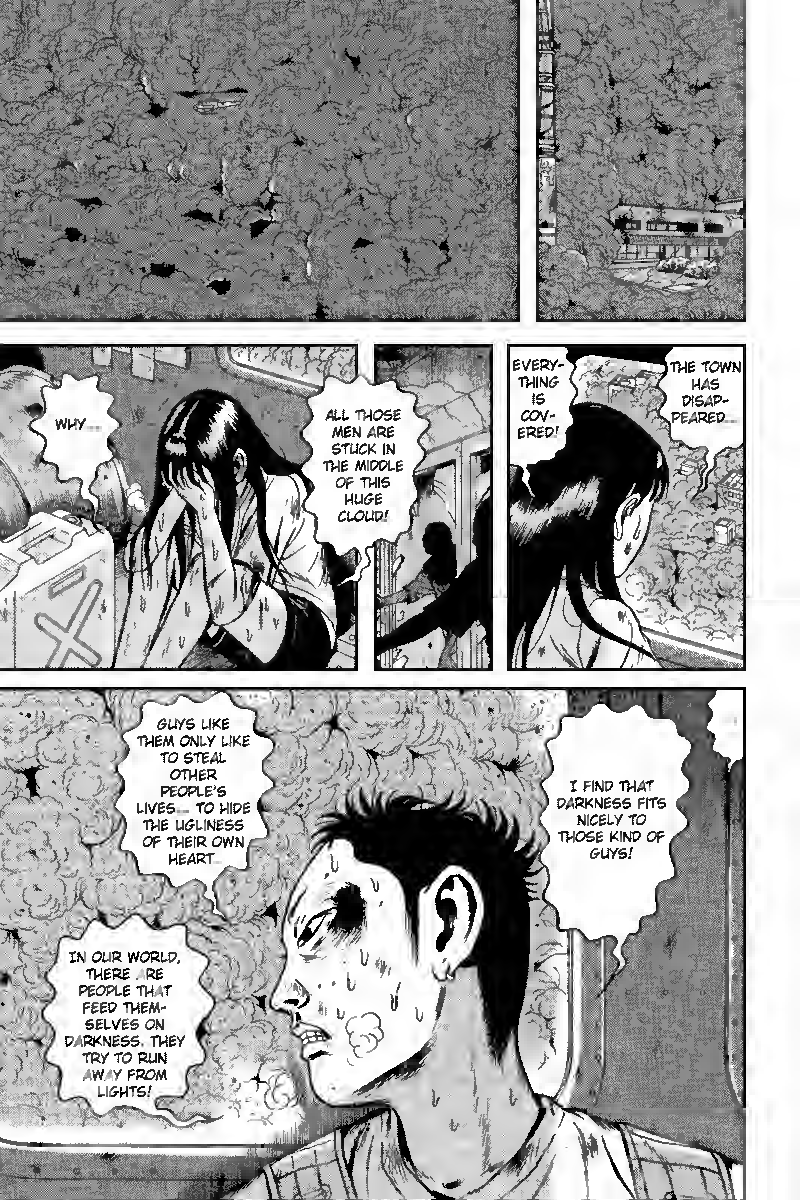




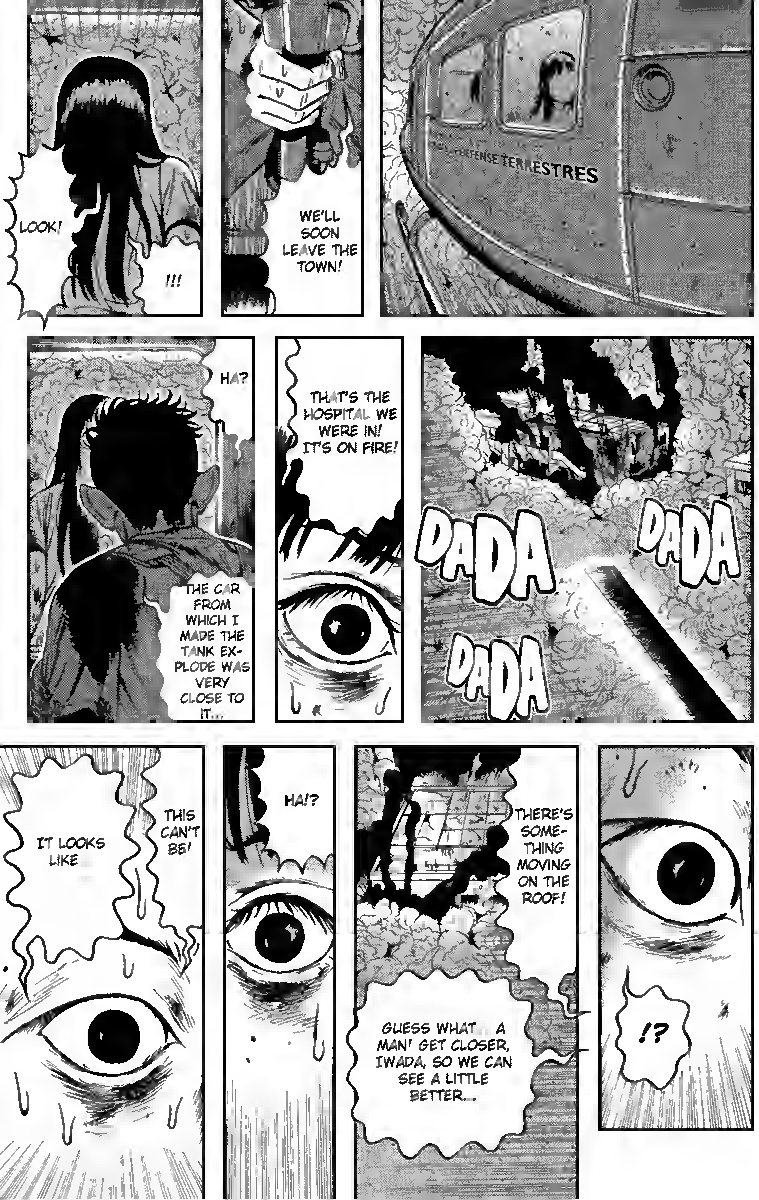


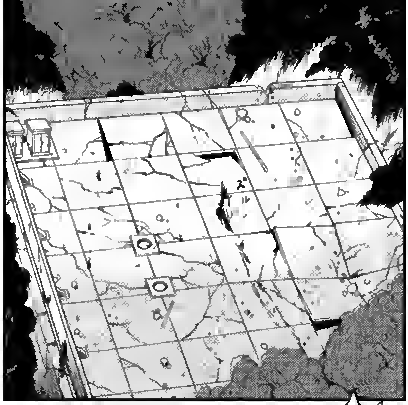

FORCES DE DEFENSE TERRESTRES

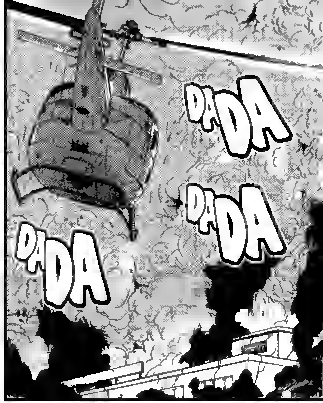



WHY...
ALL THOSE MEN ARE STUCK IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS HUGE CLOUD!
EVERY-THING IS COV-ERED!
THE TOWN HAS DISAP-PEARED...
GUYS LIKE THEM ONLY LIKE TO STEAL OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES... TO HIDE THE UGLINESS OF THEIR OWN HEART.
I FIND THAT DARKNESS FITS NICELY TO THOSE KIND OF GUYS!
IN OUR WORLD, THERE ARE PEOPLE THAT FEED THEM-SELVES ON DARKNESS. THEY TRY TO RUN AWAY FROM LIGHTS!


THE UGLINESS OF THE HEART? ALL THOSE MEN...
...
THIS CLOUD BETTER HIDE THEIR UGLINESS!
GOOOHHH
OHHH
OHHH
WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN TOKYO?

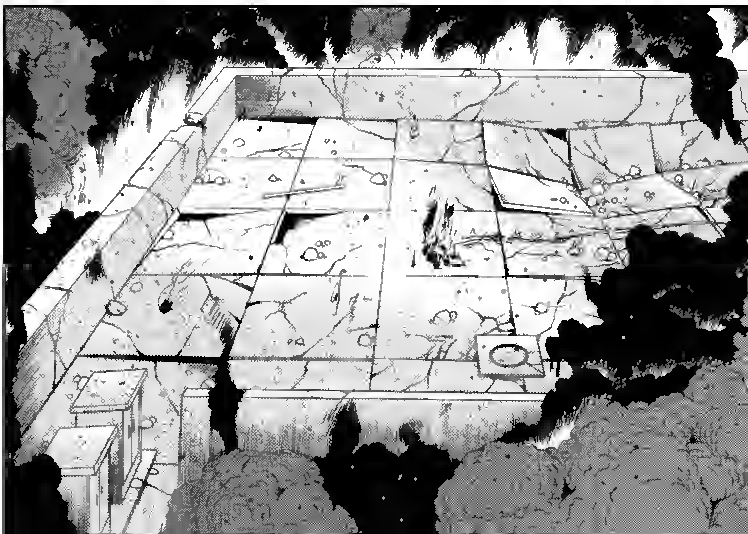

LOOK!
!!!
WE'LL SOON LEAVE THE TOWN!
DÉFENSE TERRESTRES
HA?
THE CAR FROM WHICH I MADE THE TANK EXPLODE WAS VERY CLOSE TO IT...
THAT'S THE HOSPITAL WE WERE IN! IT'S ON FIRE!
DADA
DADA
DADA
IT LOOKS LIKE
THIS CAN'T BE!
HA!?
THERE'S SOMETHING MOVING ON THE ROOF!
GUESS WHAT... A MAN! GET CLOSER, IWADA, SO WE CAN SEE A LITTLE BETTER...
!?




DA-DA
DA-DA
DA-DA



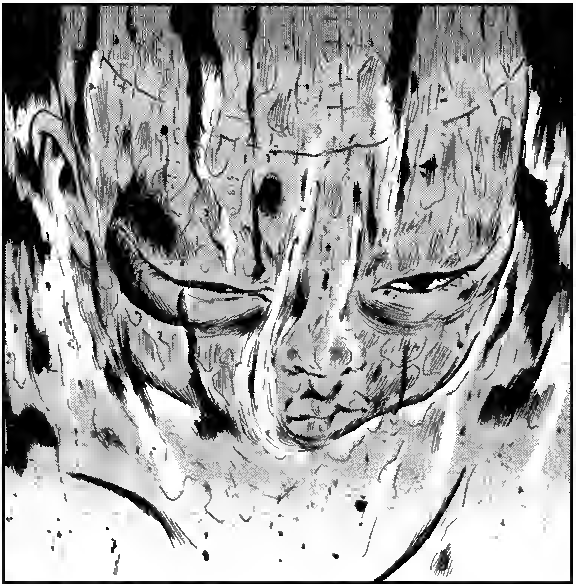

THAT AIN'T POSSIBLE. HE WAS DEAD!

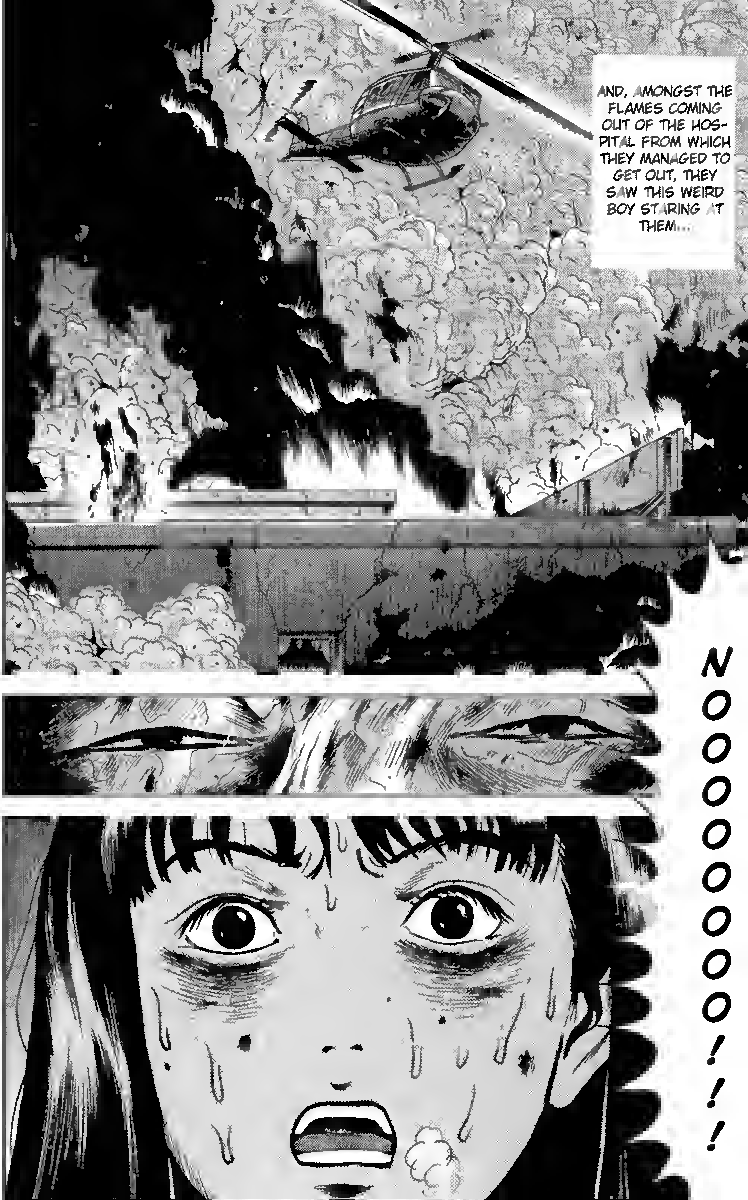






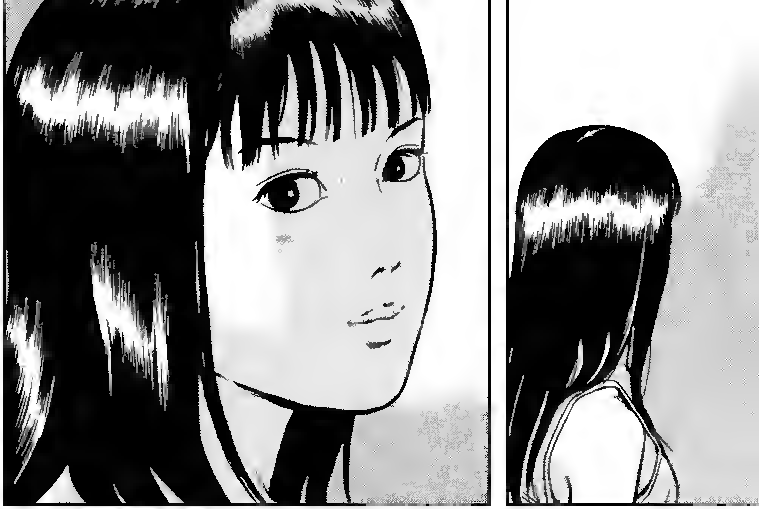
THE TOWN WAS NOW ALMOST ENTIRELY COVERED BY A THICK CLOUD OF GRAY DUST.

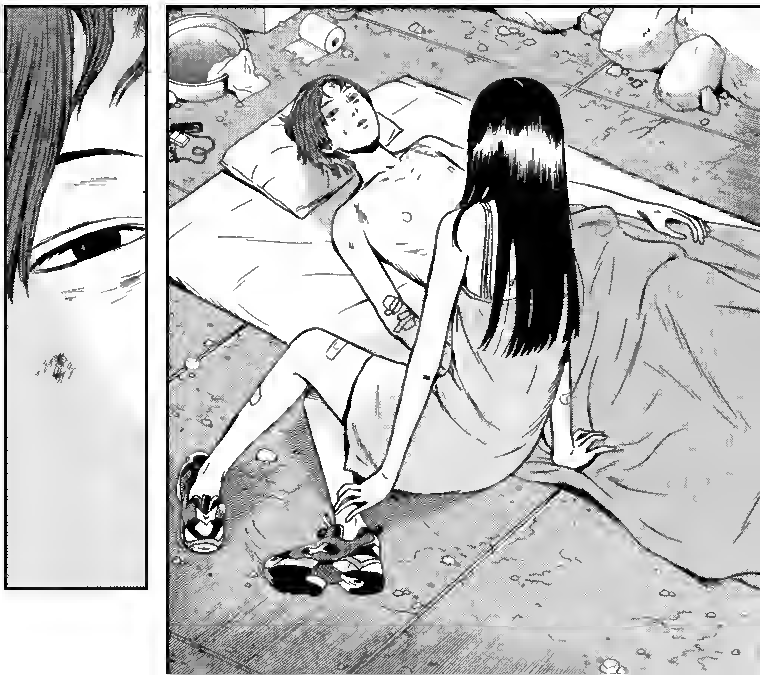



AND, AMONGST THE FLAMES COMING OUT OF THE HOSPITAL FROM WHICH THEY MANAGED TO GET OUT, THEY SAW THIS WEIRD BOY STARING AT THEM...
NOOOOOOOOOO!!!

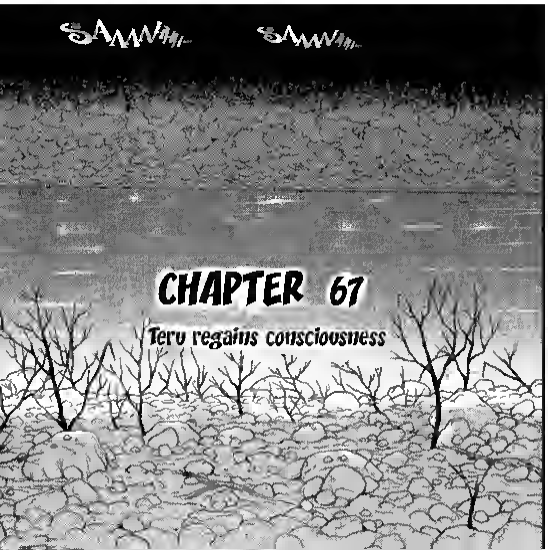

UP UNTIL NOW, EVERYTHING WAS DARK...
WHERE AM I?
THIS LIGHT...
MUM? SISTER? YOU'RE HERE?
I'M HAPPY!
EVERYONE COULD MAKE IT SAFELY...
THIS LIGHT...
HAVE I COME BACK HOME?
YES... I'VE CERTAINLY COME BACK HOME...


IN ORDER TO BE SURE HE DOESN'T RELAPSE, I'LL DO ONE OR TWO INJECTIONS IN THE COMING DAYS.
I THINK HE'S DEFINITELY GOING TO LIVE!



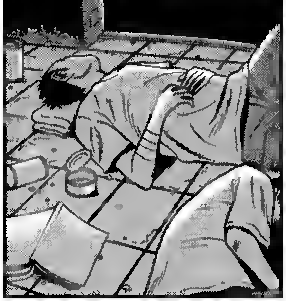


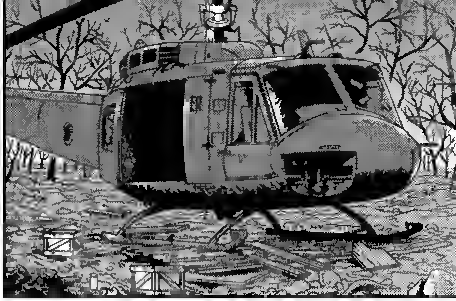


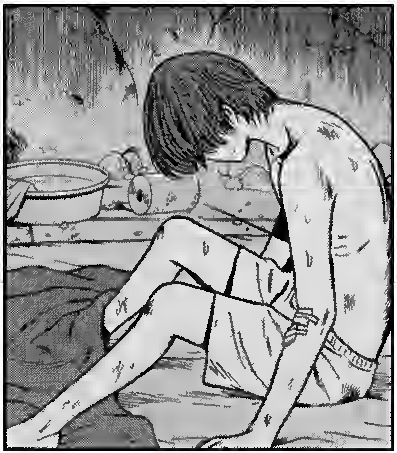

CHAPTER 67
Teru regains consciousness

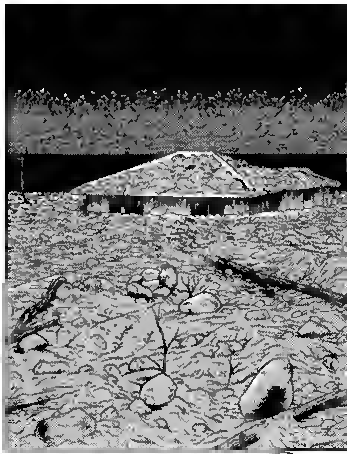




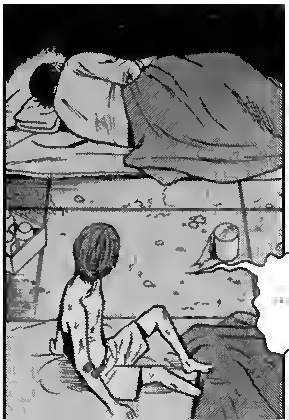










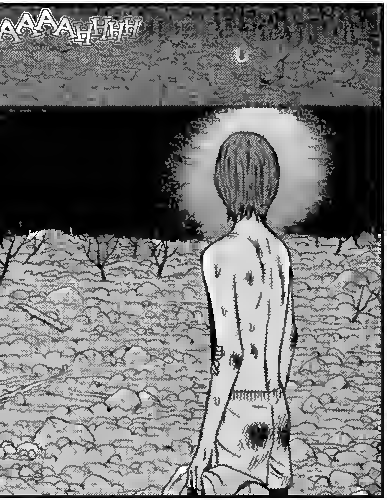


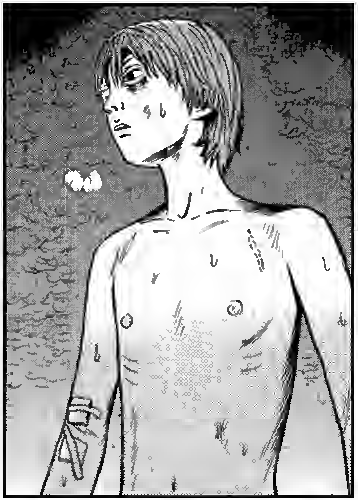

YOU'LL FIND A HOT SPRING ...
IF YOU GO STRAIGHT THIS WAY,


I'M... SO... SORE!


SAAAAHHHH

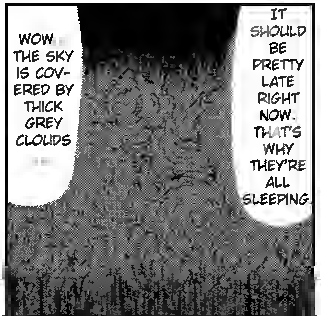



AAAAHHHH



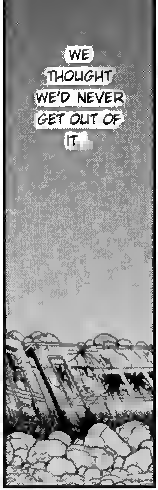

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO ME ?
AAHH

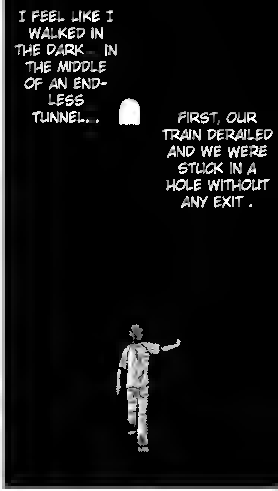

RUMMAGE

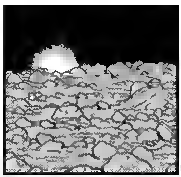

WOW THE SKY IS COVERED BY THICK GREY CLOUDS
IT SHOULD BE PRETTY LATE RIGHT NOW. THAT'S WHY THEY'RE ALL SLEEPING



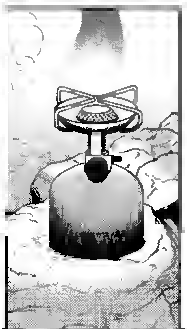

WAS I STILL ALIVE, OR WAS I DEAD... WHAT WAS THAT PLACE? I COULDN'T DISTINGUISH THE TRUTH FROM WHAT I WAS FEELING IN MY HEART AND MIND, AND WHAT WAS GOING ON IN REALITY...

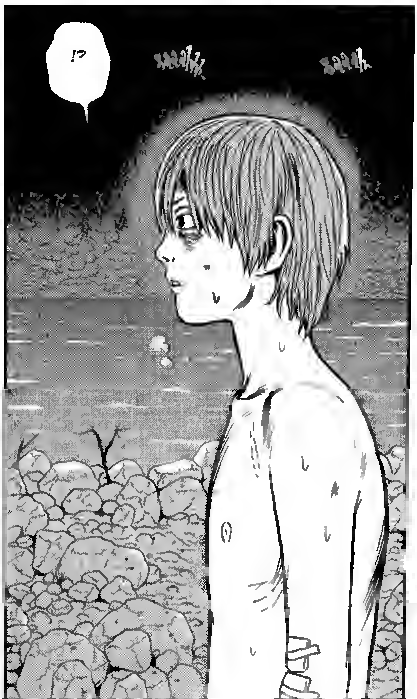

WE THOUGHT WE'D NEVER GET OUT OF IT.


I FEEL LIKE I WALKED IN THE DARK... IN THE MIDDLE OF AN END-LESS TUNNEL...
FIRST, OUR TRAIN DERAILED AND WE WERE STUCK IN A HOLE WITHOUT ANY EXIT.

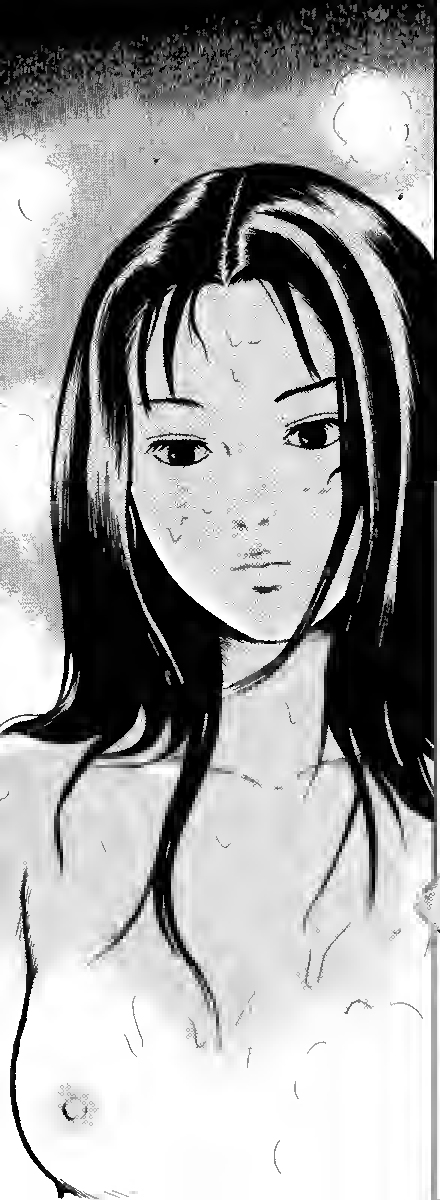


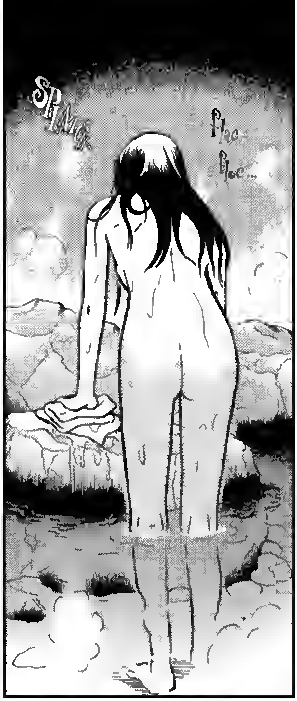

LIGHT?

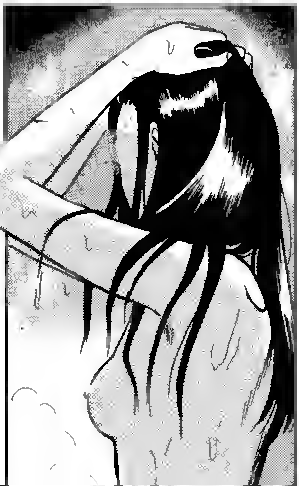



!?

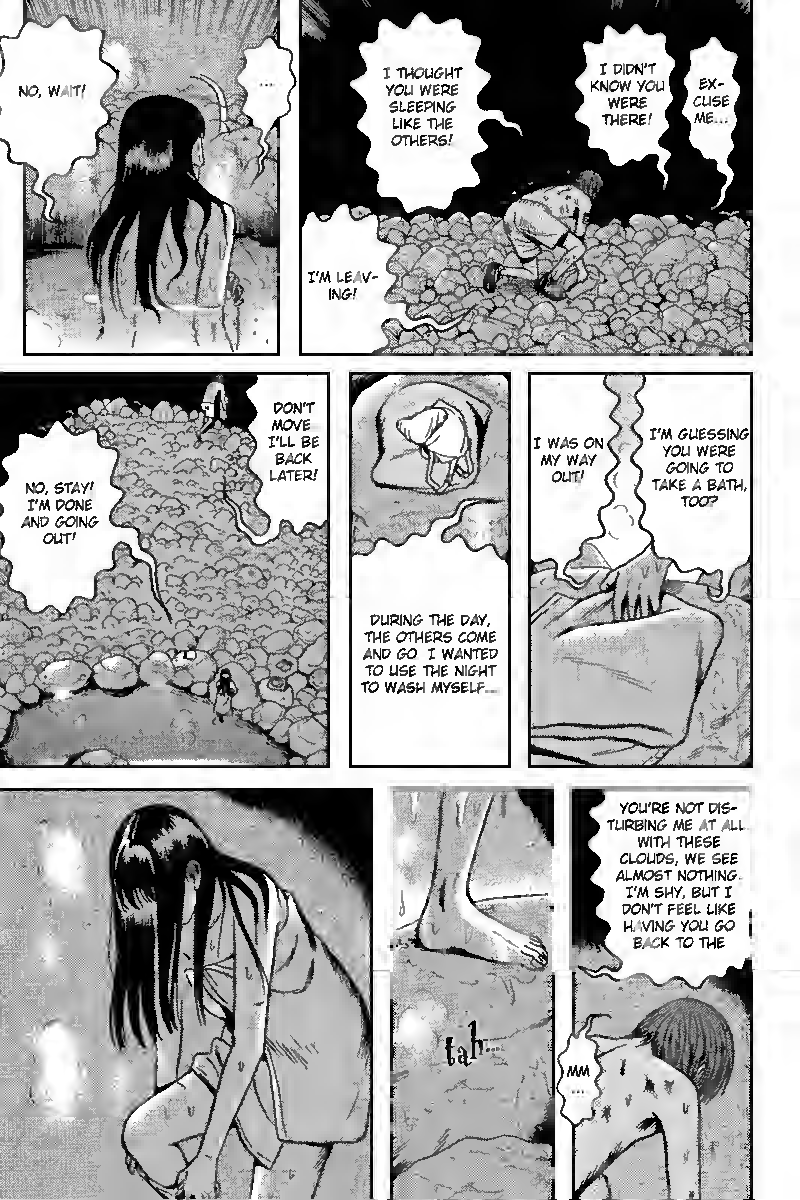





SHING
Pho
Boo...




CHIC
!!!
SPLATCHHH!!
WHO'S THERE!?
BO
MO
I—
I—
MMM
H—
MMM
OU
CH!
TERU, IS THAT YOU?
!?

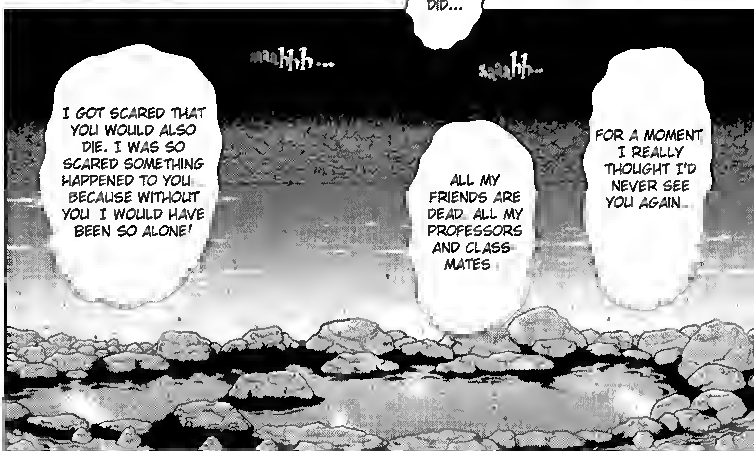

NO, WAIT!
...
I THOUGHT YOU WERE SLEEPING LIKE THE OTHERS!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE THERE!
EX-CUSE ME...
I'M LEAV-ING!
NO, STAY! I'M DONE AND GOING OUT!
DON'T MOVE I'LL BE BACK LATER!
DURING THE DAY, THE OTHERS COME AND GO. I WANTED TO USE THE NIGHT TO WASH MYSELF...
I WAS ON MY WAY OUT!
I'M GUESSING YOU WERE GOING TO TAKE A BATH, TOO?
tah...
MM ...
YOU'RE NOT DIS-TURBING ME AT ALL WITH THESE CLOUDS, WE SEE ALMOST NOTHING. I'M SHY, BUT I DON'T FEEL LIKE HAVING YOU GO BACK TO THE

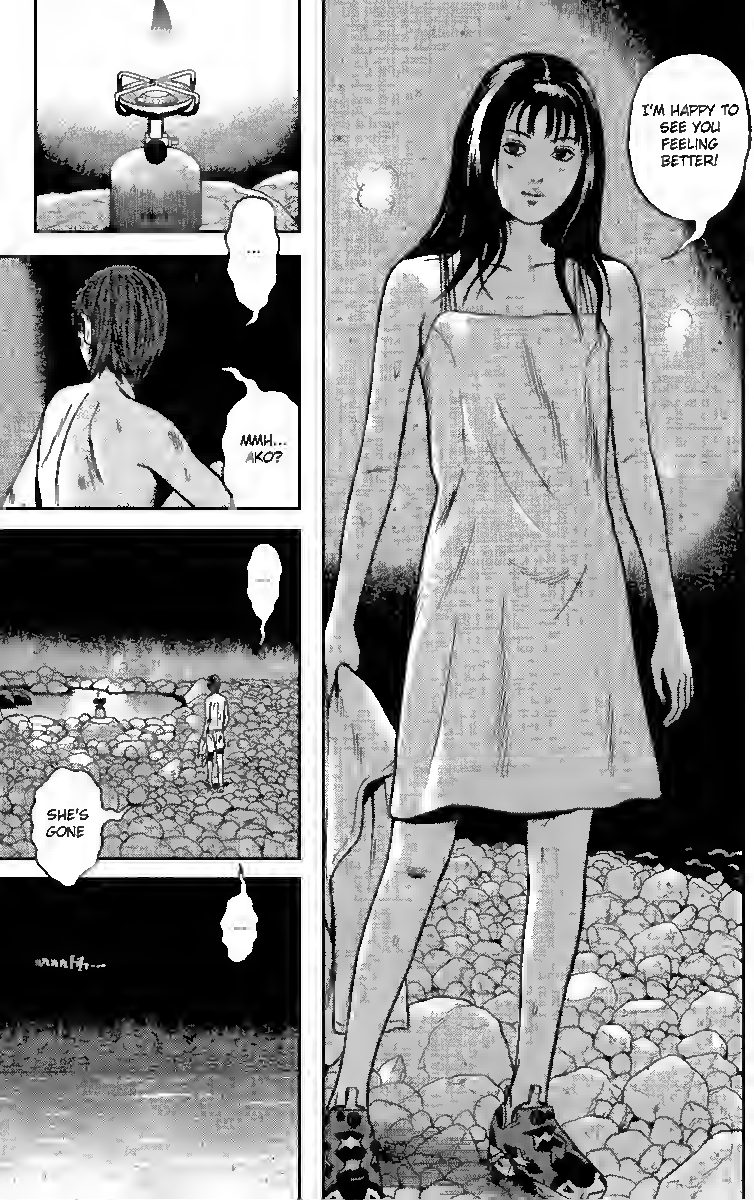

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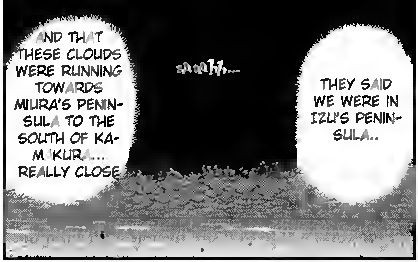



YOU ALSO HELPED ME MORE THAN ONCE!
OH! PLEASE ...


I HAVEN'T THANKED YOU YET...
BY THE WAY...
FOR ALL YOU DID...


I GOT SCARED THAT YOU WOULD ALSO DIE. I WAS SO SCARED SOMETHING HAPPENED TO YOU... BECAUSE WITHOUT YOU I WOULD HAVE BEEN SO ALONE!
ALL MY FRIENDS ARE DEAD. ALL MY PROFESSORS AND CLASSMATES...
FOR A MOMENT I REALLY THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN...

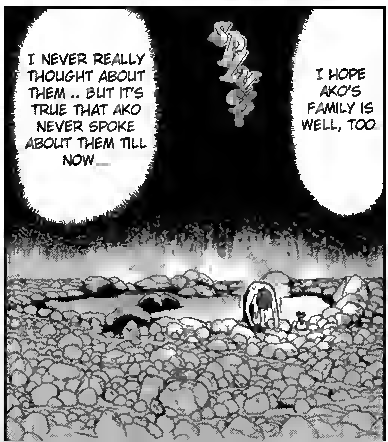

...
MMH... AKO?
...
SHE'S GONE
I'M HAPPY TO SEE YOU FEELING BETTER!


AND THAT THESE CLOUDS WERE RUNNING TOWARDS MIURA'S PENINSULA TO THE SOUTH OF KAMAKURA.... REALLY CLOSE
Shuuh...
THEY SAID WE WERE IN IZU'S PENINSULA..
....



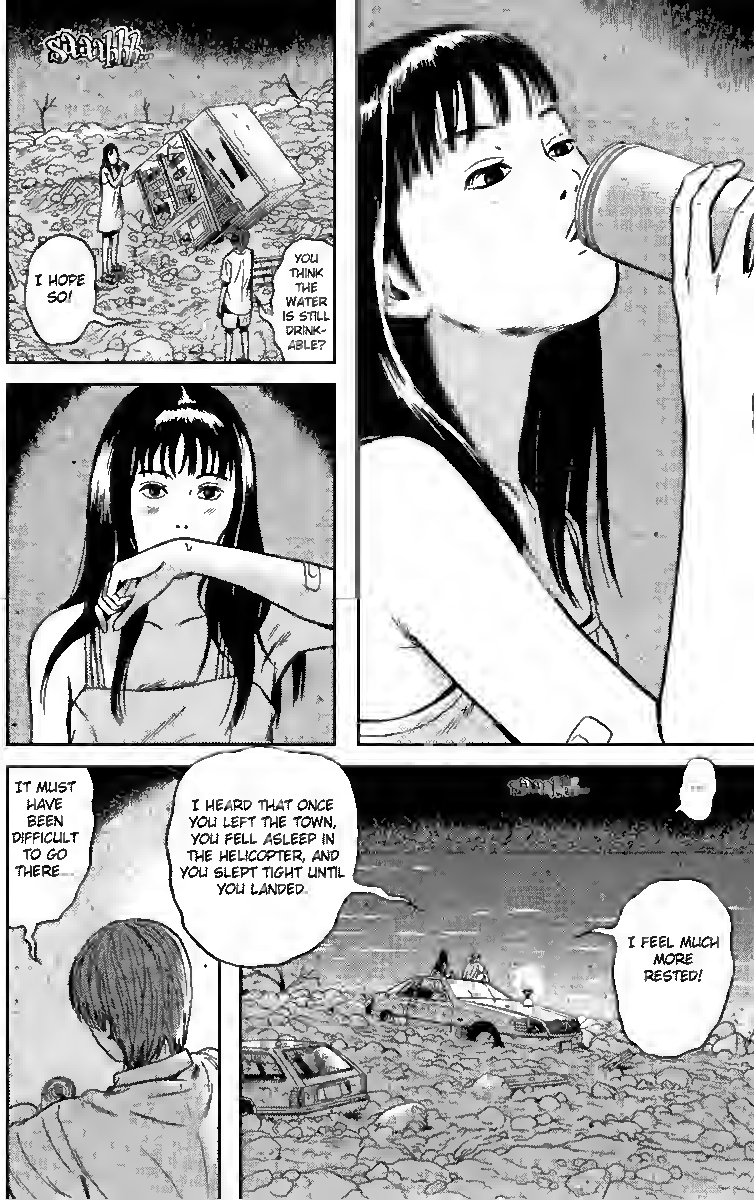

I WONDER IF MY DAD, MUM, AND SISTER ARE WELL....


I'M SORRY TO HAVE LEFT HER ALONE FOR SO LONG....
EXCUSE ME, AKO....


I NEVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT THEM .. BUT IT'S TRUE THAT AKO NEVER SPOKE ABOUT THEM TILL NOW....
I HOPE AKO'S FAMILY IS WELL, TOO




!
TAKE THEM. I BROUGHT YOU NEW CLOTHES. I WASHED WHAT I COULD.
YOUR SHOES WERE FULL OF BLOOD...
EH... EH...
THESE WERE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL I SAW.
THERE'S A SPORTS SHOP HALF DUG UP NEAR HERE. I TOOK ALL I COULD.
WOW... WHERE DID YOU FIND THEM!?
AREN'T YOU THIRSTY?


SHAAA
YOU THINK THE WATER IS STILL DRINK-ABLE?
I HOPE SO!
...
I FEEL MUCH MORE RESTED!
I HEARD THAT ONCE YOU LEFT THE TOWN, YOU FELL ASLEEP IN THE HELICOPTER, AND YOU SLEPT TIGHT UNTIL YOU LANDED.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT TO GO THERE...


MMH...
I WAS SO TIRED ONCE I FELT SAFE THAT I LET MYSELF GO AND FELL ASLEEP... IMMEDIATELY
INDEED!
IT'S JUST ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS SEA
I CAN'T STOP THINKING THAT TOKYO IS VERY NEAR HERE! JUST CAN'T STOP! A BIRD'S FLY...
ARE YOU EAGER TO ARRIVE IN TOKYO?
OH YEAH!

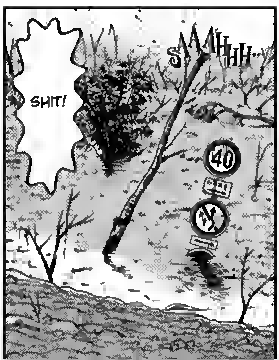

BBRROOMM
Saabh!
YES!
ALRIGHT BUT WHEN ARE WE REALLY GOING TO BE BACK HOME? TIME HAS ELAPSED SINCE WE GOT OUT OF THE TUNNEL WHERE WE WERE STUCK.
YOU SEE THIS KEY?
BUT
THIS IS THE KEY TO THE APART-MENT WHERE WE LIVED IN TOKYO. I TOOK GREAT CARE OF IT UNTIL NOW.
WOULD YOU MIND TAKING CARE OF IT FOR ME NOW?


I WAS KEEPING IT AS A LUCKY CHARM... IT'S USELESS NOW...
BUT... THAT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO YOU!
THIS IS THE KEY TO YOUR HOUSE. YOUR FAMILY IS EXPECTING YOU!
WE ABSOLUTELY NEED TO GO BACK TO TOKYO... TOGETHER
...
SO MANY THINGS HAVE HAPPENED... SO SUDDENLY. EVERYTHING WENT SO FAST!
MY HOUSE MAY NOT EXIST ANYMORE...
IF WE DON'T GO BACK TOGETHER, YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO GO BACK TO YOUR HOUSE...
Shaahh...


WE SPENT SO MUCH TIME TOGETHER!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE SPOKE ABOUT ALL THIS, EVEN THOUGH...
SOMETIMES, I FEEL AS IF WE WERE STILL ON THE SCHOOL'S JOURNEY... DON'T YOU?
BUT...
THIS IS AN ENDLESS JOURNEY!
SWISH
HHH
HHH
HH

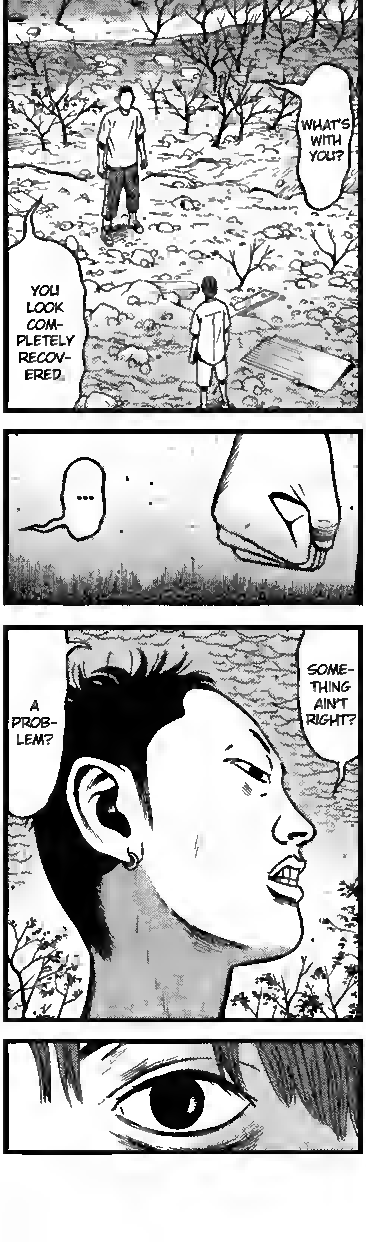

WHAT? ARE YOU INSANE?
YOU'RE SAYING YOU WANT TO FLY THROUGH THAT BLACK CLOUD?
CHAPTER 68
THE DEPARTURE
THAT'S IT...
IT'S SUI-CIDE!!
MAYBE... I TOOK ALL NECESSARY MEASURES TO PROTECT THE HELICOPTER. I MODIFIED A BIT OF THE EX-HAUST SYSTEM AND DOUBLED THE FILTERS.
WE MIGHT NOT COME BACK!

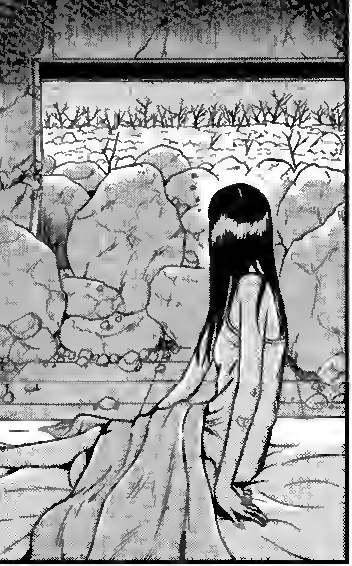

ALL THESE BLACK CLOUDS, TSUNAMIS, AND EARTHQUAKES HAVE AN ORIGIN,
I DON'T WANNA STAY HERE ALL MY LIFE! I WANT TO GO TO TOKYO TO SEE WHAT THE CITY HAS BECOME.
AND I WANNA FIND OUT WHAT IT IS.

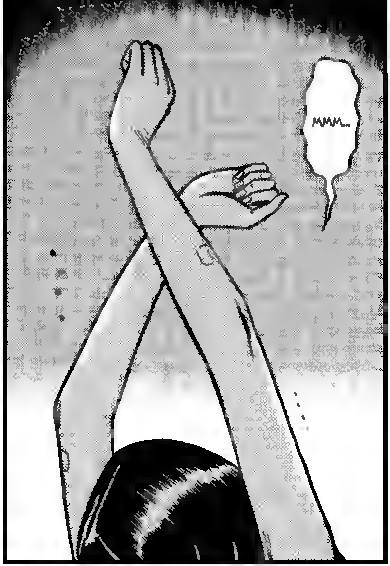

SMASH
SHIT!
40
KM

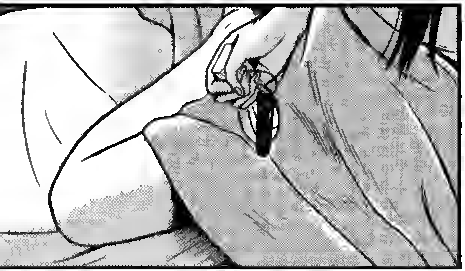


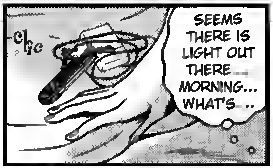


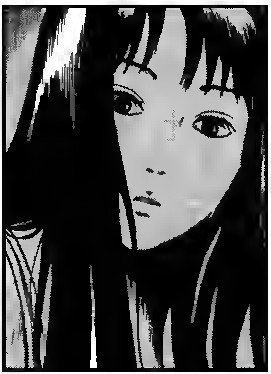

YOU LOOK COMPLETELY RECOVERED.
WHAT'S WITH YOU?
...
A PROBLEM?
SOMETHING AIN'T RIGHT?

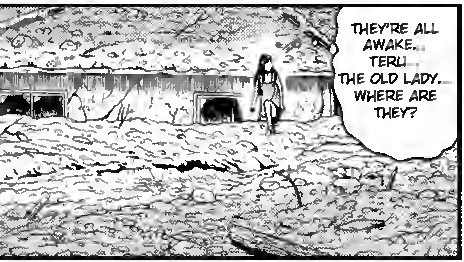



MMM...




SEEMS THERE IS LIGHT OUT THERE... MORNING... WHAT'S...




THEY'RE ALL AWAKE... TERU... THE OLD LADY... WHERE ARE THEY?

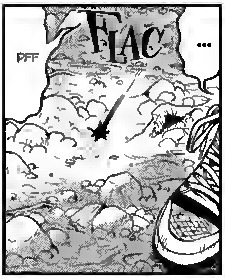

HAAAAHHH-HHHH
ZOHI!
!?
HAAAAHHH-HHHH
OOMF

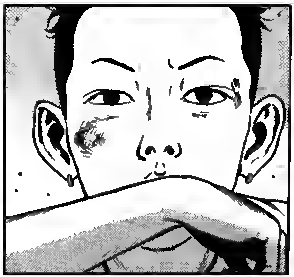

YOU'VE BARELY RECOVERED, AND YOU'RE ALREADY LOOKIN' FOR A FIGHT WITH ME? ARE YOU FUCKIN' KIDDIN' ME?!
OU..
I WASN'T THINKING YOU HATED ME THAT MUCH..
DA
H...
OUCH!

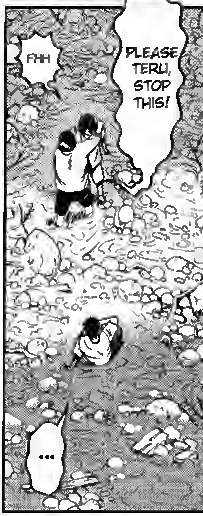

DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED WHEN YOU WERE IN COMA?
YOU IDIOT! THANKS TO WHO ARE YOU ALIVE? I ALSO RISKED MY LIFE GOIN' THERE TO BRING BACK YOUR GODDAMN MEDICINE.
I DIDN'T ASK ANYTHING TO YOU!
I NEVER ASKED YOU TO HELP ME!
!?
MMH..
WHAT'S UP THERE!?

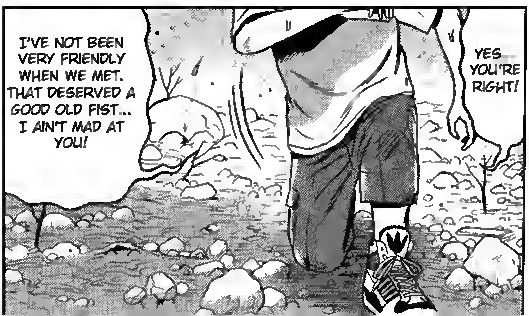

SBAAAF!!
AAARGH!
BR!
BRLOH

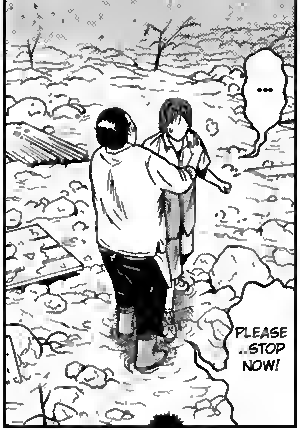

YOU'RE LIKE ALL THE OTHERS!
I DIDN'T FORGET THAT YOU LIKE VIOLENCE!


FIAC
PFF
...



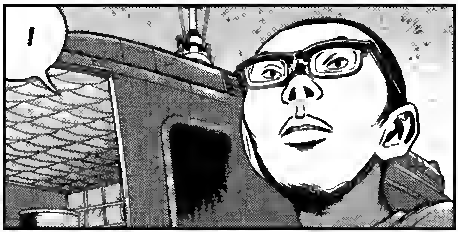

FHH
PLEASE TERU, STOP THIS!
...


I'VE NOT BEEN VERY FRIENDLY WHEN WE MET. THAT DESERVED A GOOD OLD FIST... I AIN'T MAD AT YOU!
YES... YOU'RE RIGHT!


...
PLEASE ..STOP NOW!


AND I WOULDN'T WANT TO SEND YOU BACK IN BED AS YOU ONLY GOT OUT..YOUR GIRLFRIEND WOULD BE SO SAD.

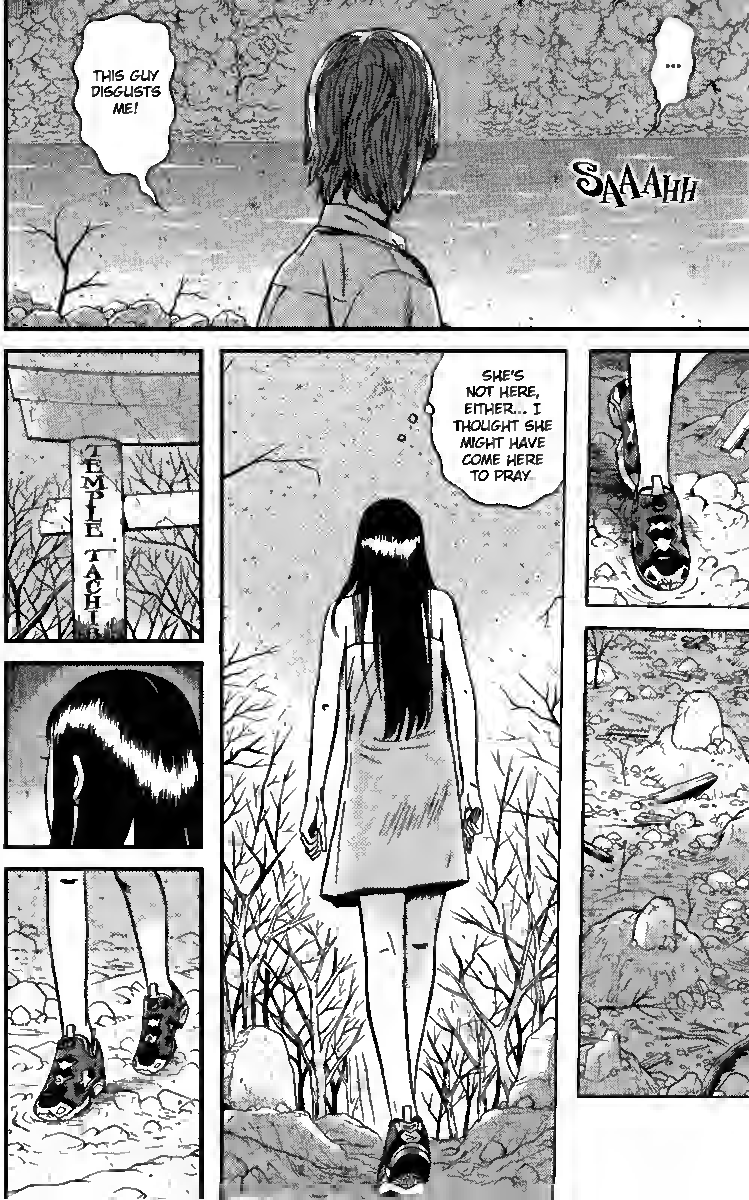


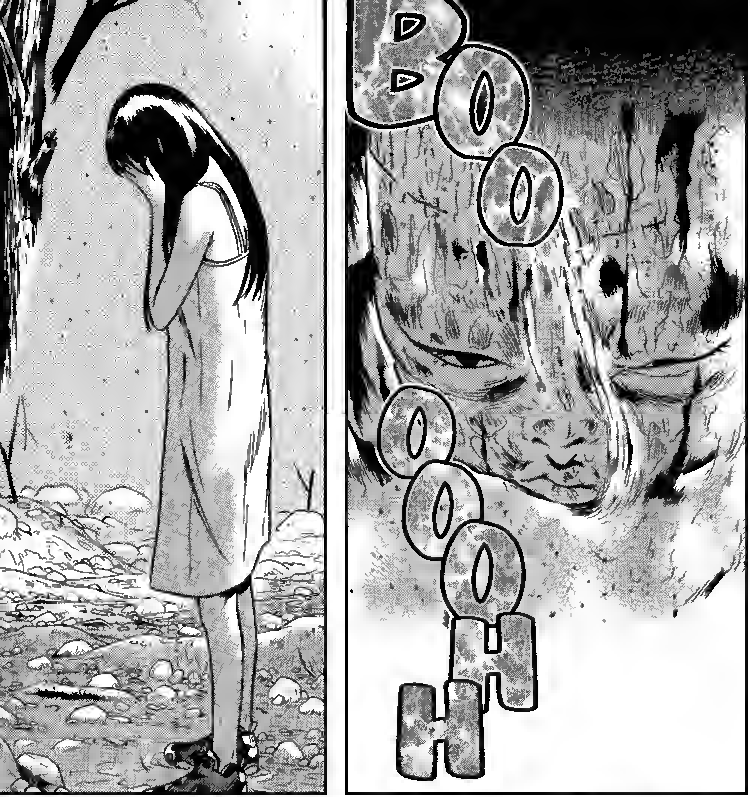

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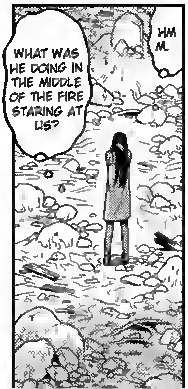

A!!

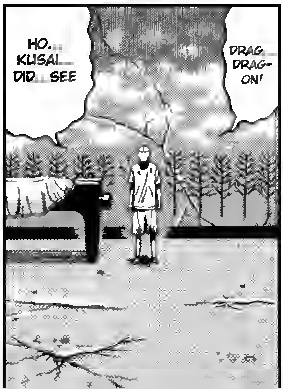

SAAHHHH
?

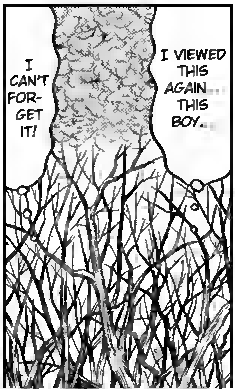

WHAT HAP-PENED?
NOTHING SPECIAL!


THIS GUY DISGUSTS ME!
...
SAAAHH
TEMPLE TACHI
SHE'S NOT HERE, EITHER... I THOUGHT SHE MIGHT HAVE COME HERE TO PRAY


D
D
O
O
O
O
H


HM M.
WHAT WAS HE DOING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FIRE STARING AT US?

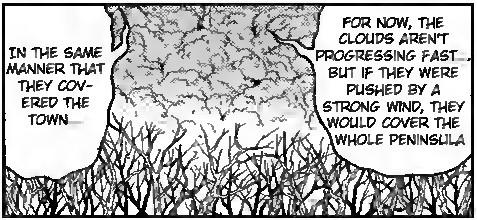

HO... KUSAI... DID... SEE
DRAG... DRAG-ON!

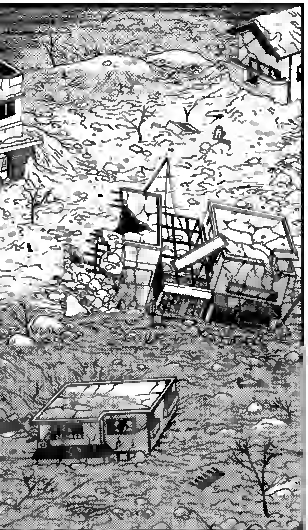

I VIEWED THIS AGAIN... THIS BOY...
I CAN'T FOR-GET IT!


HEY, AKO!!
TAHH

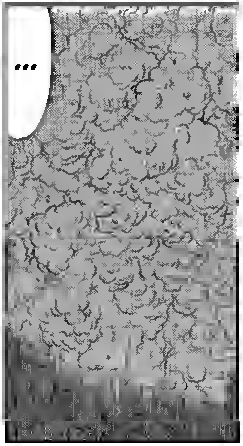

HMMM... YEAH, WHAT ABOUT YOU?
REALLY, YOU WANT TO FLY THROUGH THAT BLACK CLOUD?


...


IN THE SAME MANNER THAT THEY COVERED THE TOWN...
FOR NOW, THE CLOUDS AREN'T PROGRESSING FAST... BUT IF THEY WERE PUSHED BY A STRONG WIND, THEY WOULD COVER THE WHOLE PENINSULA






...


LIBRARY
WHERE HAS AKO GONE?
WHERE...?
!
BUT...
Hokusai Museum
IS THAT THE HOKUSAI HE WAS TALKING ABOUT?
...
HERE... HERE IT IS!!
Hokusai Museum


HOKUSAI MUSEUM
JAPANESE BOOK
TEMPLE TACHIBANA
I'D LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT IT.
DO THEY TALK ABOUT THIS TEMPLE?
JAPANESE GODS
IN-TER-EST-ING!?
!
...
flap
HOKUSAI MUSEUM
flap
flap
flap


GOOHHH
GOOHHH
HA
AKO!
?
TERU!
THAT BOY WITH SCARS ...
HE SAID VARI-OUS THINGS
WHAT ?

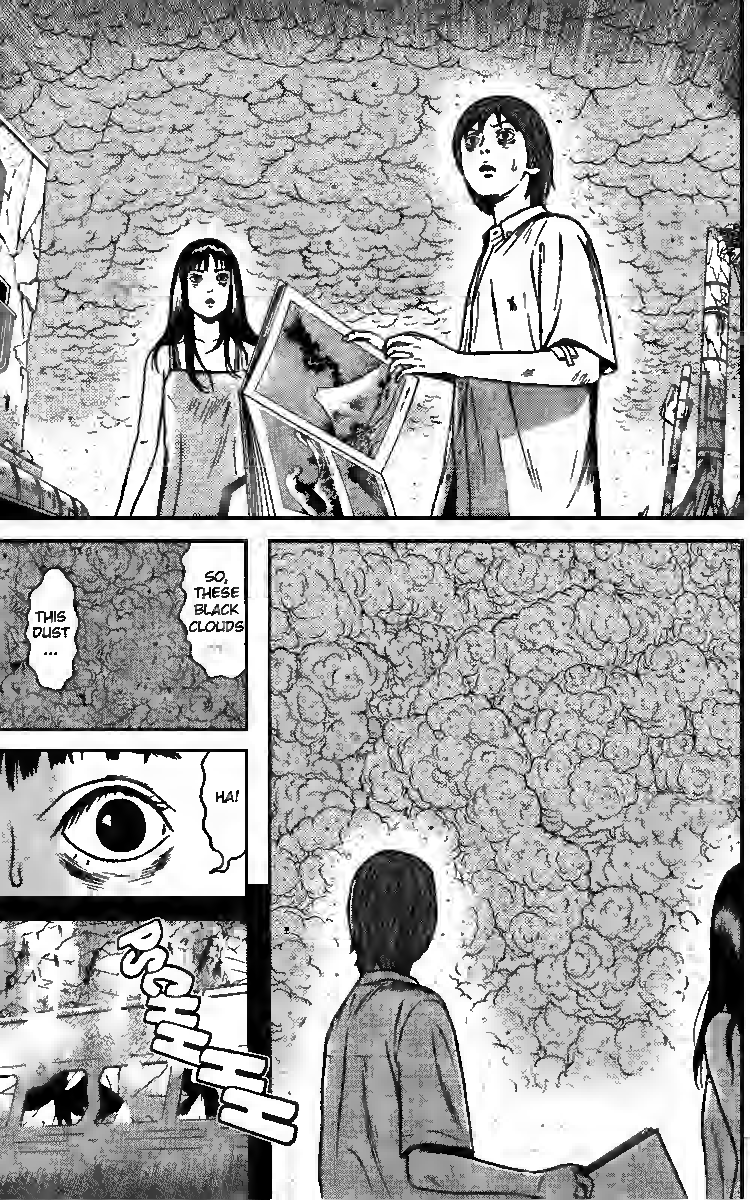

MMMH?
I DIDN'T FIGURE OUT EVERYTHING YET.
HOKUSAI MUSEU
WITH THESE BOOKS, I MIGHT UNDERSTAND BETTER!
JAPANESE GODS
THE BOY WITH SCARS?
GOOOOH

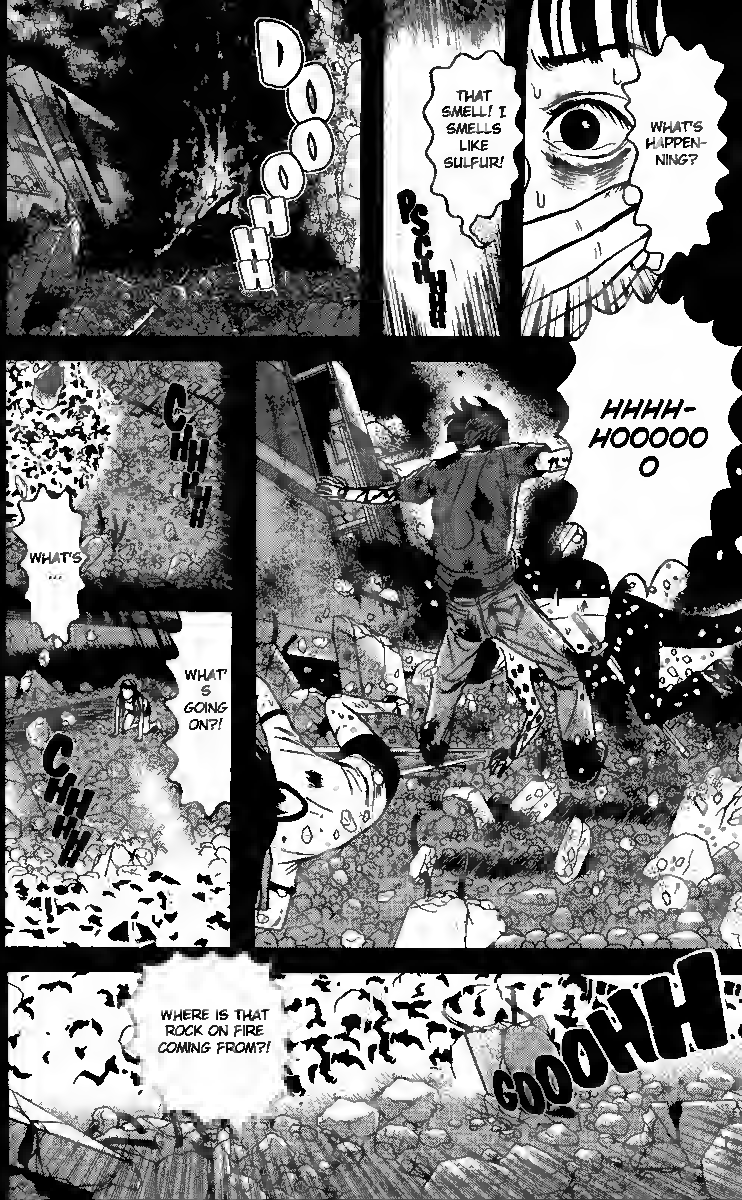

HUM, NOT DIRECTLY...
HE MENTIONNED A DRAGON...
HE SAID THE PULSE OF THE DRAGON WAS LIKE EARTH'S ENERGY
THIS BOY WITH SCARS. TALKED ABOUT ALL THAT IS HAPPENING?
HE TOLD YOU WHY THERE WERE ALL THESE BLACK CLOUDS IN THE SKY? AND WHY THERE WERE THESE EARTH QUAKES?
HE TALKED ABOUT FORMS IN FUMES AND FIRE... HE SAID THAT WAS LINKED TO ALL THESE CATASTROPHIES!
HOW IS THIS LINKED?
HE ALSO TALKED ABOUT HOKUSAI, THE PAINTER. WELL, I GUESS IT WAS THAT HOKUSAI...
WHAT THINGS DID HE TALK ABOUT?
WHAT DID HE SAY TO YOU?


WOULD GET OUT FROM THE HIGHEST PLACE IN THIS COUNTRY.
HE SAID THIS DRAGON...
COUNTRY?
THE HIGHEST PLACE IN THIS...
I'M RECALLING NOW! I STUDIED THAT IN MY ART HISTORY CLASS! WHEN WE MENTION HOKUSAI, WE'RE OFTEN THINKING ABOUT HIS WORKS...
BUT...


OF
MOUNT
FUJI....

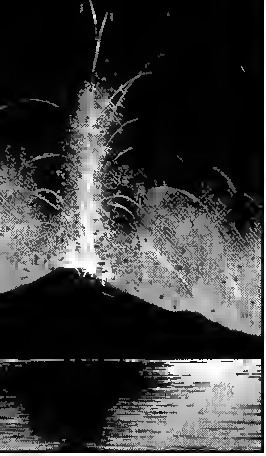



SO, THESE BLACK CLOUDS
THIS DUST ...
HA!
EEEEE


DOOOHH
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
THAT SMELL! I SMELLS LIKE SULFUR!
PSCHHH
HHHH-HOOOOOO
CHHH
WHAT'S ...
WHAT' S GOING ON?!
CHHH
WHERE IS THAT ROCK ON FIRE COMING FROM?!
GOOOHH

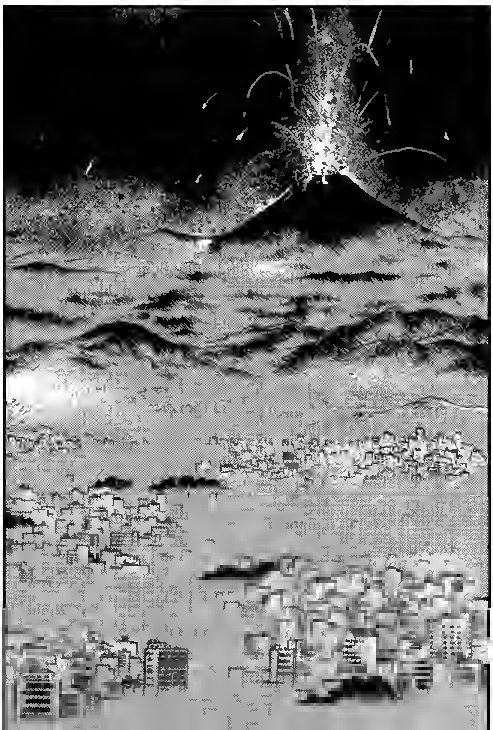

HEY... WHAT'S THAT?!
WHAT I SAW THEN... FROM THE TRAIN.
WHAT...
THAT WAS AN ERUPTION.



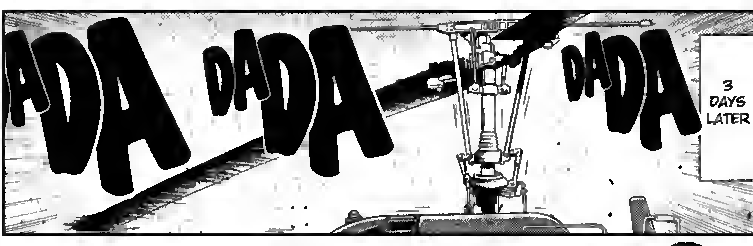




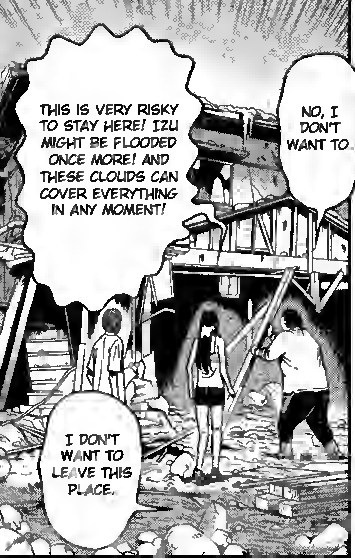


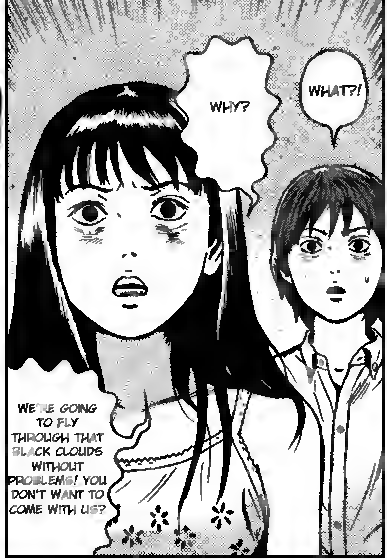


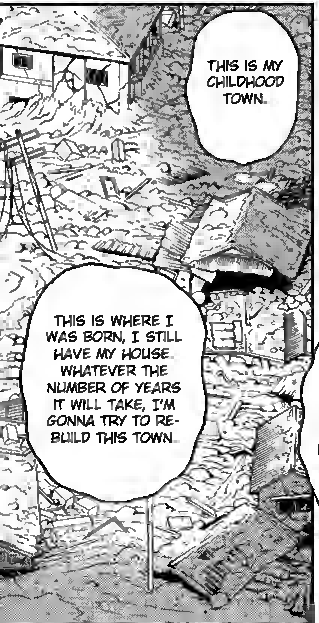

MOUNT FUJI!
THAT'S CRAZY..
THAT'S...


DADA DADA DADA
3 DAYS LATER


...NOT GOING!
I'M...

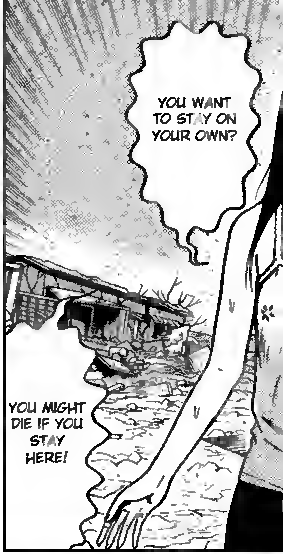

THIS IS VERY RISKY TO STAY HERE! IZU MIGHT BE FLOODED ONCE MORE! AND THESE CLOUDS CAN COVER EVERYTHING IN ANY MOMENT!
NO, I DON'T WANT TO.
I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE THIS PLACE.


WHAT?!
WHY?
WE'RE GOING TO FLY THROUGH THAT BLACK CLOUDS WITHOUT PROBLEMS! YOU DON'T WANT TO COME WITH US?


THIS IS MY CHILDHOOD TOWN.
THIS IS WHERE I WAS BORN, I STILL HAVE MY HOUSE. WHATEVER THE NUMBER OF YEARS IT WILL TAKE, I'M GONNA TRY TO RE-BUILD THIS TOWN.


ALL MY RELATIVES AND FRIENDS HAVE DIED HERE.
AND NOTHING WILL MAKE ME CHANGE MY OPINION.
I'M NOT EXPECTING MUCH MORE FROM LIFE. ONLY DYING HERE, PEACEFULLY.
BUT, I DON'T WANT THAT TO STOP YOU FROM LEAVING... I FEEL THAT YOU NEED TO KNOW WHAT REALLY HAPPENED.


YES... I KNOW


YOU WANT TO STAY ON YOUR OWN?
YOU MIGHT DIE IF YOU STAY HERE!


BAT
AH

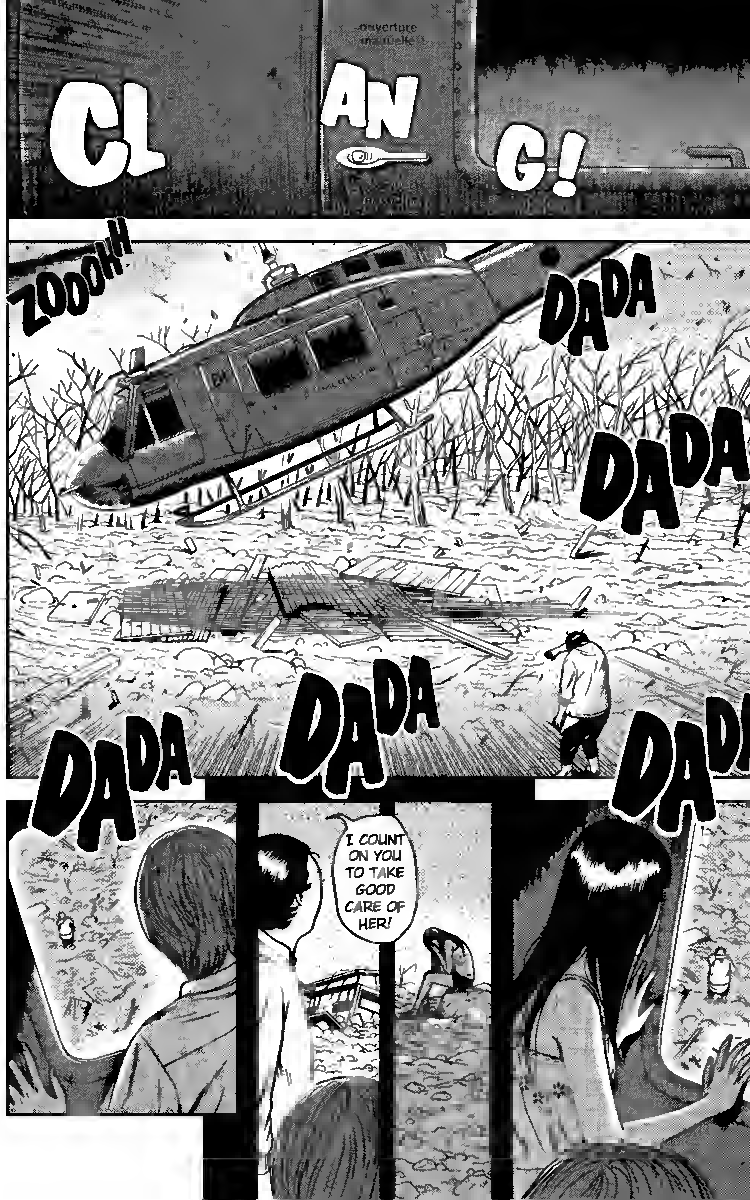

DA DA DA DA
DA


EH, NIMURA!
!?

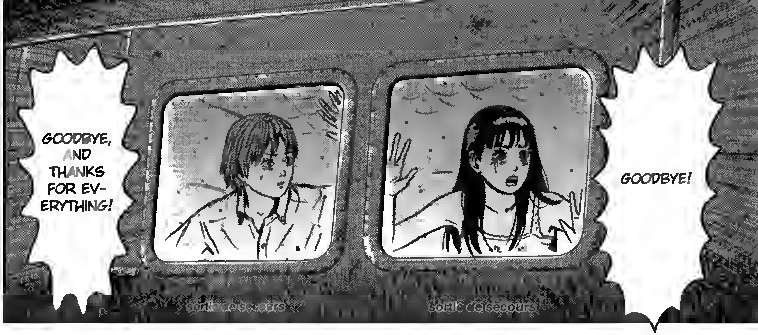

PFF
I DON'T WANNA STAY HERE WITH THAT CRAZY OLD CHICK!
SO...
I'M GONNA GO SEE WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE
I THINK WITH THAT LAST INJECTION, YOU WON'T BE AT RISK ANYMORE.
...


YOU KNOW, I HAVE TO TELL YOU A COUPLE OF THINGS ABOUT AKO.
FORGET THIS...
I WISH I COULD HELP YOU, TOO.
I THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DID FOR ME!
HA?!
DA DA DA DA DA DA
WE'VE TAKEN OFF!

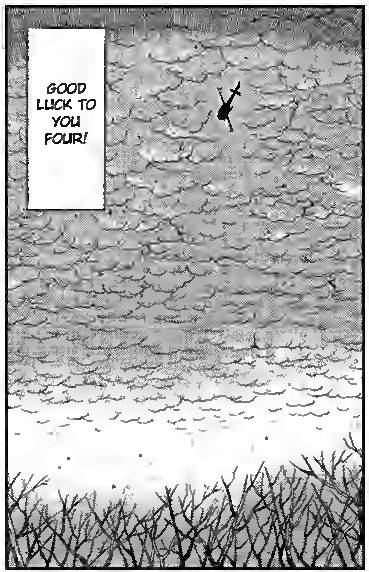

DADA DADA DADA DADA
FORCES DE DÉFENSE TERRESTRES
GATAK
DADA DADA
DADA


CL
AN
G!
ZOOOKH
DADA
DADA
DADA
DADA
DA
I COUNT ON YOU TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER!


ZAAHH
DA DA DA DA DA DA


GOODBYE, AND THANKS FOR EV-ERYTHING!
GOODBYE!

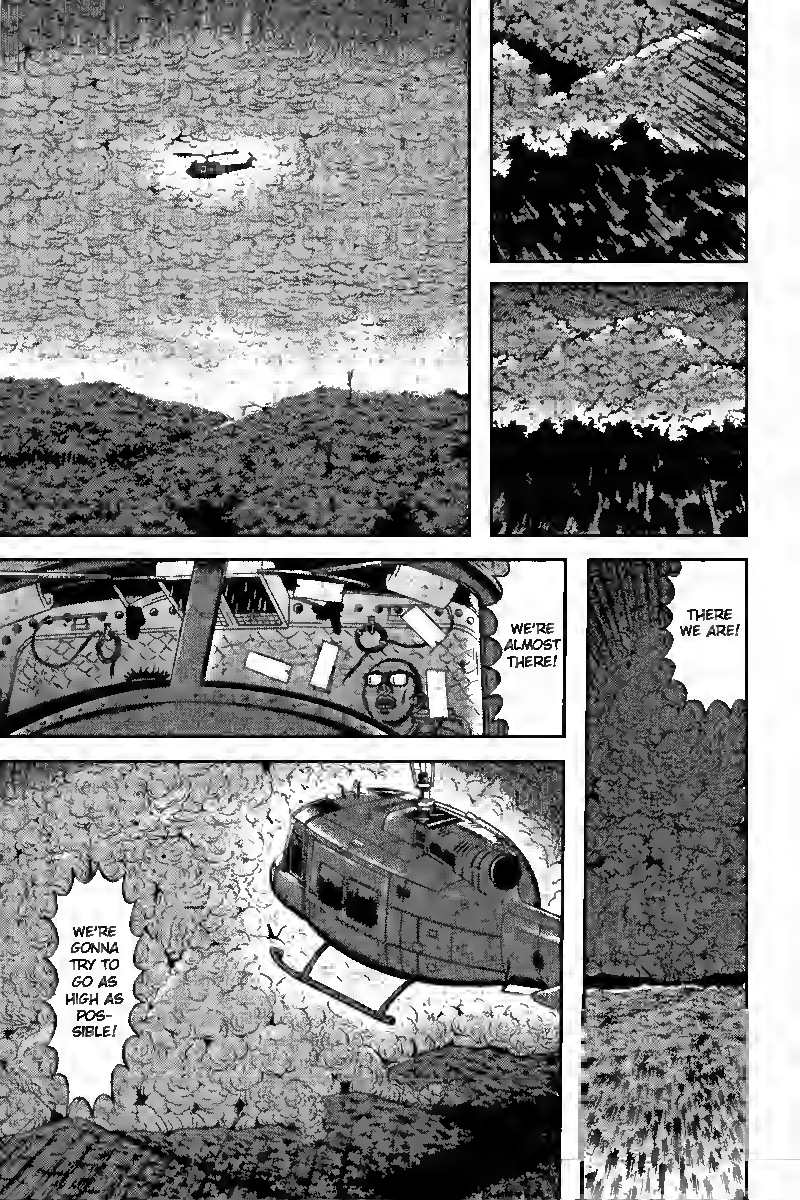

WILL SOON BE REPLACED BY THE LIGHT OF HOPE THAT WILL MAKE YOUR LIVES EASIER.
I HOPE THIS DARKNESS... WHICH DROPS A BLACK AND HEAVY SHADOW ON YOUR HEARTS,

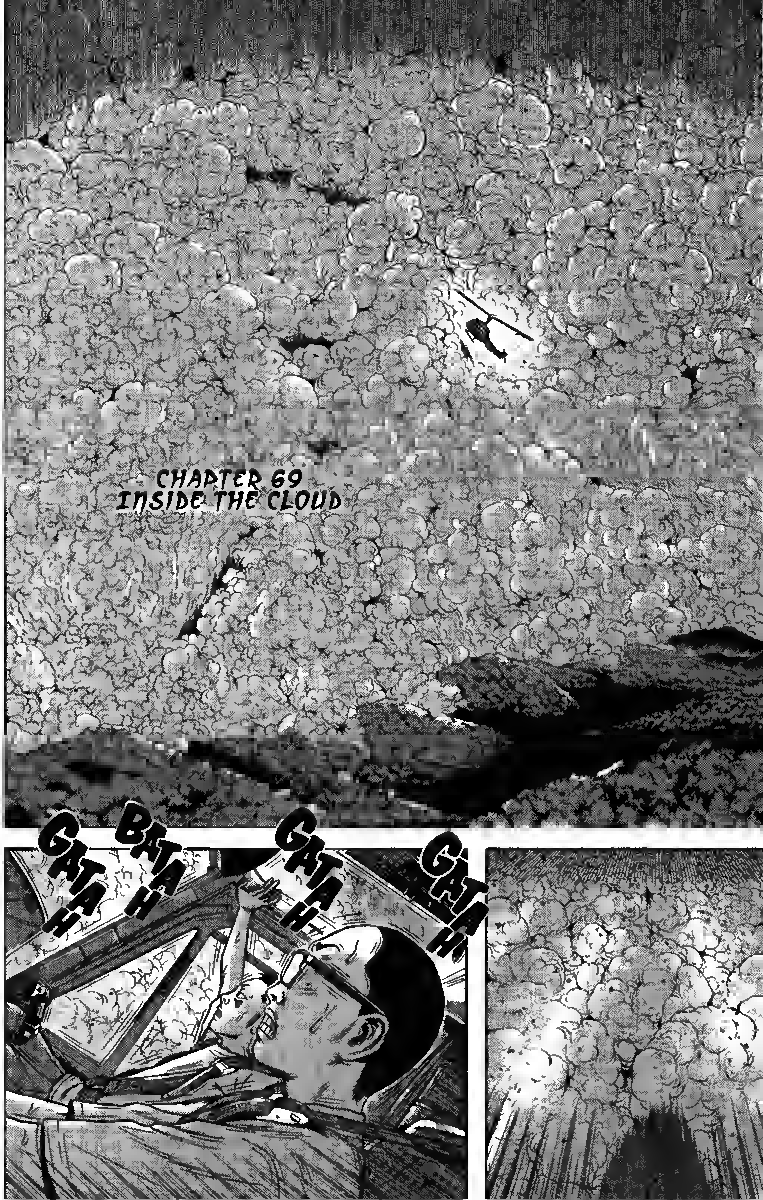

GOOD LUCK TO YOU FOUR!


I HOPE THIS DARKNESS WILL FADE FOR EVERYONE, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
I HOPE IT'LL VANISH ENTIRELY!

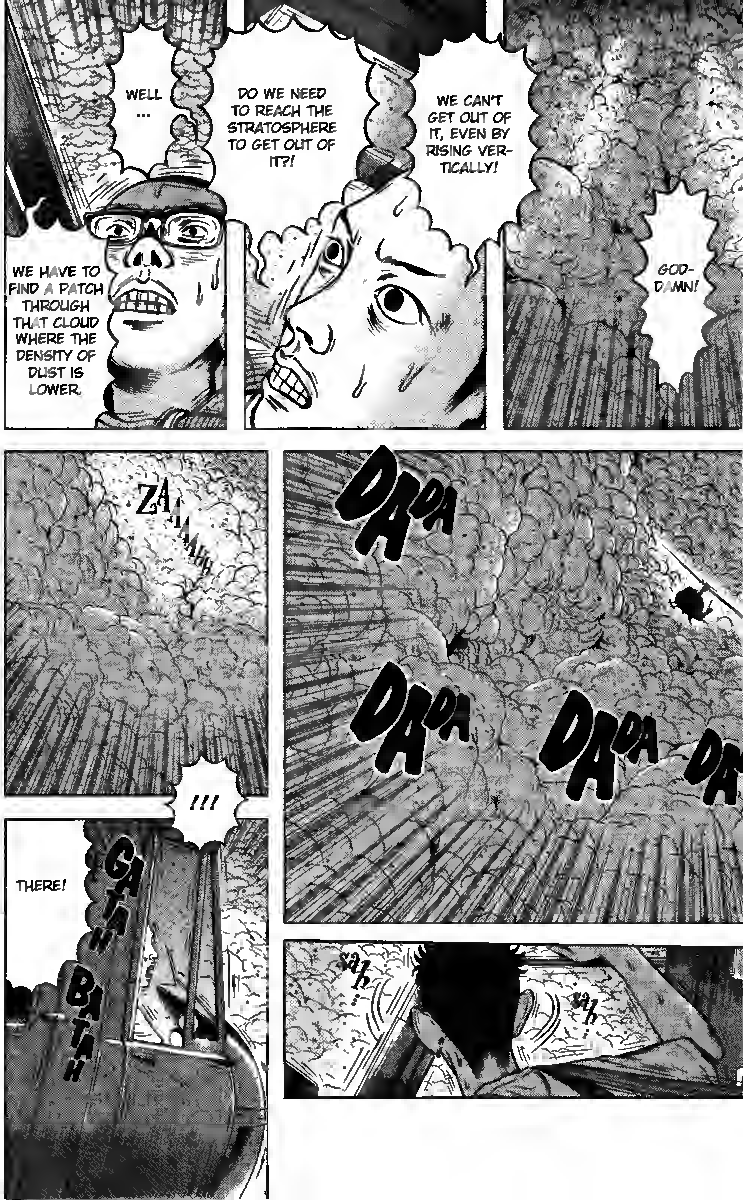

FAREWELL!
DA DA
DA DA
DA DA
DA DA
DA DA
WELL... ONCE WE'RE CLOSE TO THESE BLACK CLOUDS, WE'LL GO UP AND TRY TO PASS OVER THEM!
LET'S GO!


BRMMMM
ROOMM
DATAH
GATAH
DATAH
GOOOOOHHHH
BRMMMM
KHAHH
ROOMMM
CRAC
ROOMM

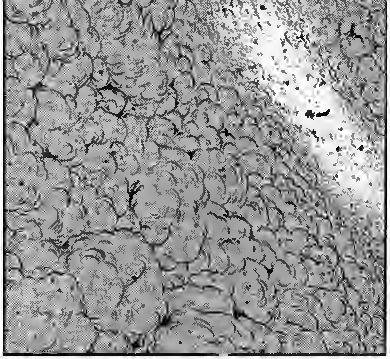

WE'RE ALMOST THERE!
THERE WE ARE!
WE'RE GONNA TRY TO GO AS HIGH AS POS-SIBLE!

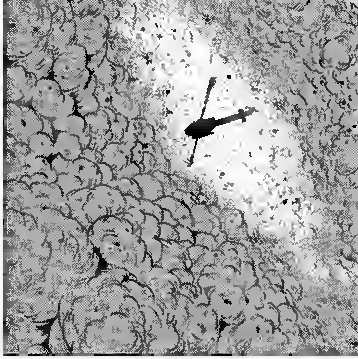

CHAPTER 69
INSIDE THE CLOUD
GATA
BATA
GATA
GATA

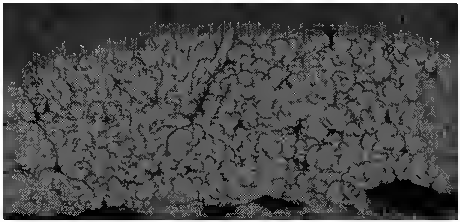

AKO...
SINCE WE HAD THAT ACCIDENT, THE OLD LADY WAS THE ONLY PERSON WE MET THAT
AKO TRUSTED.
I COUNT ON YOU TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER!
GH
H
OLD LADY...
GATAHA
GATAHA
GATAHA
GATAH
GATAH
GATAH

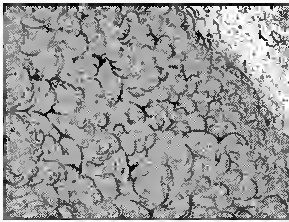

WELL ...
WE HAVE TO FIND A PATCH THROUGH THAT CLOUD WHERE THE DENSITY OF DUST IS LOWER.
DO WE NEED TO REACH THE STRATOSPHERE TO GET OUT OF IT?!
WE CAN'T GET OUT OF IT, EVEN BY RISING VERTICALLY!
GOD-DAMN!
ZA...
!!!
THERE!
GATAH
BATAH
DADA
DADA
DADA
DA
SAH!
SAH!

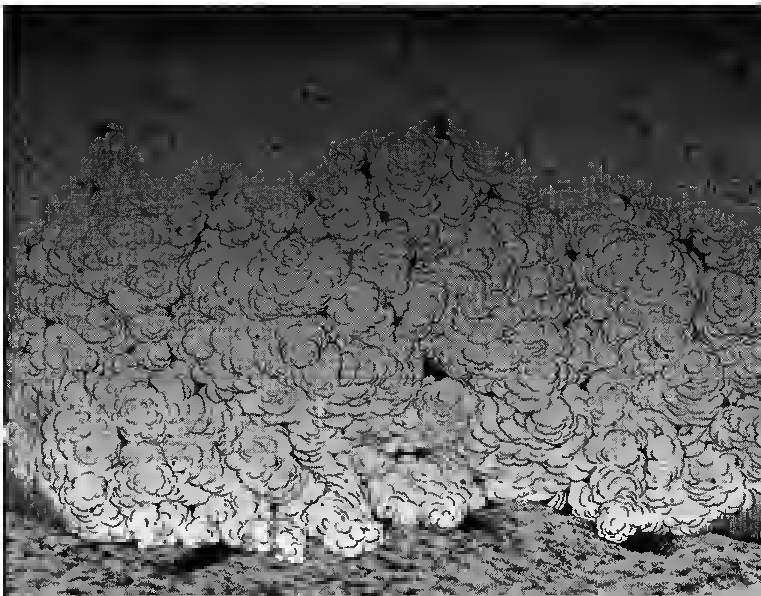

BAM
Z...hhh
I'M GONNA DASH THROUGH THIS PATH!
HANG ON NOW!
!!!
HERE WE GO!
ZAHH
DADA
DADA
DADA



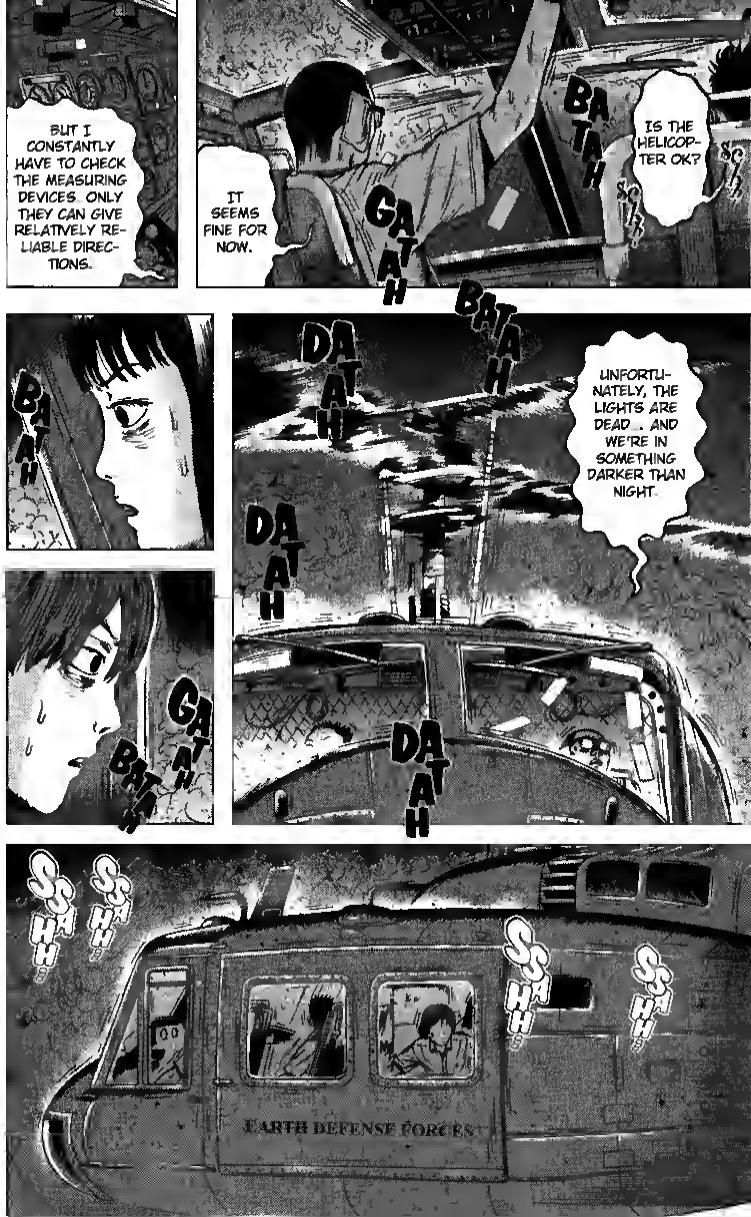


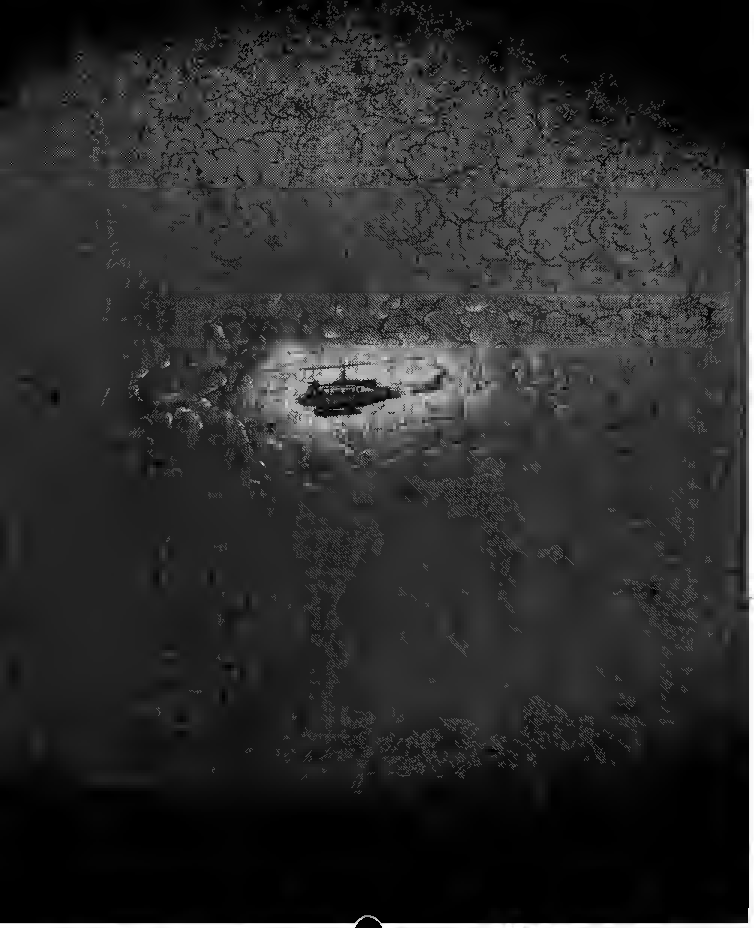


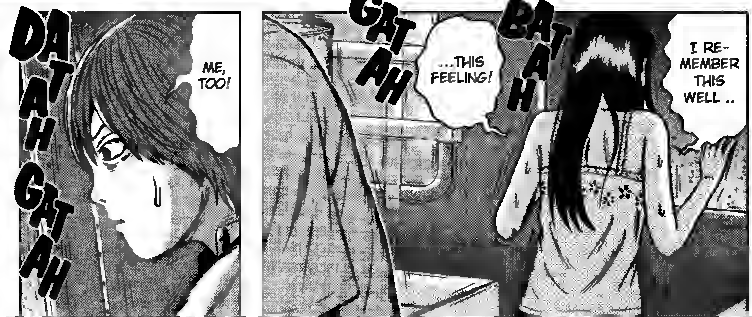


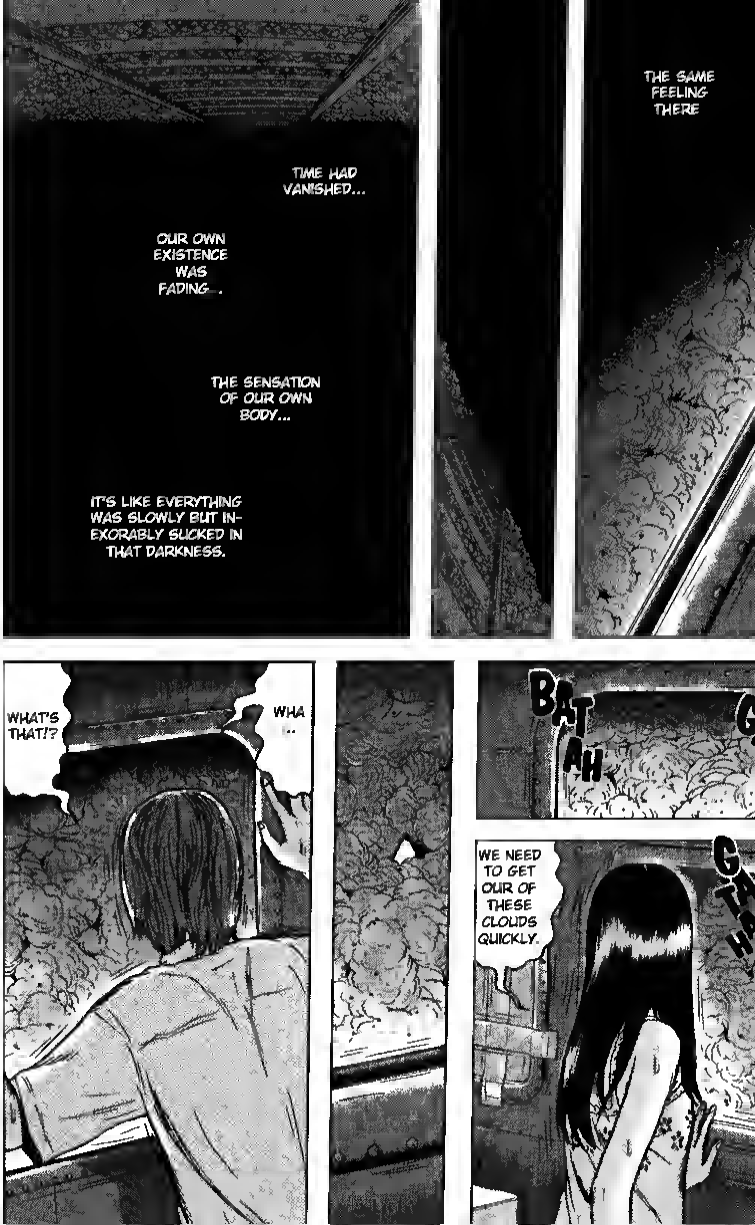



SSH...
SSH...
DRZN
DRZN
DRZN
IT'S SO DARK THAT IT SEEMS LIKE NIGHT!
DTAH
DTAH
BTAH
CTAH
MANY CITIES BELOW US SHOULD BE COMPLETELY COVERED BY THAT HUGE CLOUD...
GRTAH
DTAH
BTAH
BTAH
GTAH


BUT I CONSTANTLY HAVE TO CHECK THE MEASURING DEVICES. ONLY THEY CAN GIVE RELATIVELY RELIABLE DIRECTIONS.
IT SEEMS FINE FOR NOW.
IS THE HELICOPTER OK?
GATAH
BATAH
BATAH
UNFORTUNATELY, THE LIGHTS ARE DEAD... AND WE'RE IN SOMETHING DARKER THAN NIGHT.
DATAH
DATAH
DATAH
GATAH
BATAH
SSHHH
SSHHH
SSHHH
SSHHH
EARTH DEFENSE FORCES

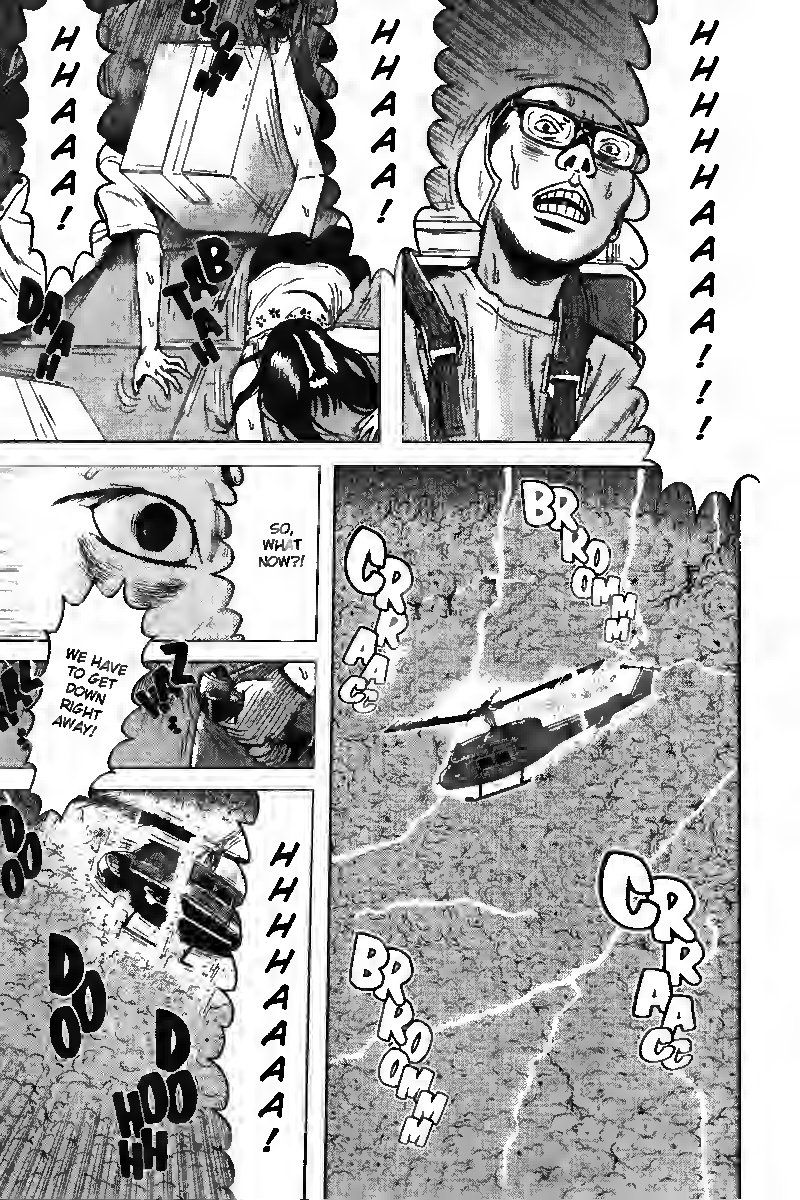



I RE-MEMBER THIS WELL ..
BAT AH
...THIS FEELING!
GAT AH
ME, TOO!
DA AH GAT AH


TIME HAD VANISHED...
OUR OWN EXISTENCE WAS FADING...
THE SENSATION OF OUR OWN BODY...
IT'S LIKE EVERYTHING WAS SLOWLY BUT INEXORABLY SUCKED IN THAT DARKNESS.
THE SAME FEELING THERE
WHAT'S THAT!?
WHA...
BAT
AH
WE NEED TO GET OUR OF THESE CLOUDS QUICKLY.

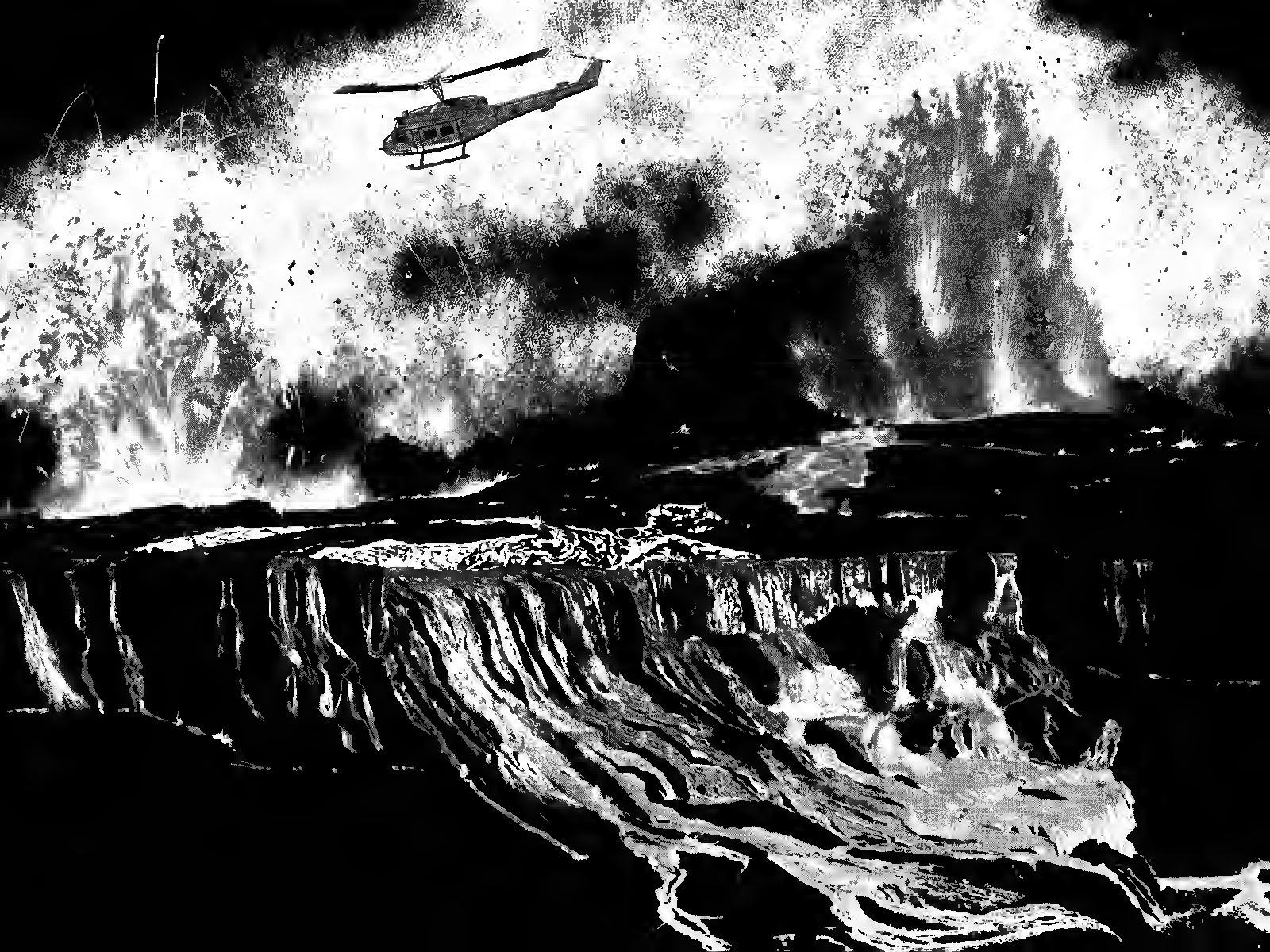

OKAY, I'M GOING TO GO DOWN A BIT. IT LOOKS THINNER THERE.
GATA
WE SHOULD HAVE GONE PAST MISHIMA, AND I THINK WE SHOULD BE CLOSE TO HAKONE.
...
DATA
BATA
WHERE SHOULD WE BE?
ZAAAHHHHH
WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE MOUNT FUJI.
GATA
DATA
!?
TERU... I SAW A LIGHT DOWN THERE!
!?
YOU, TOO?!


WHAT IS THIS WEIRD SOUND I JUST HEARD?
GG O
HO HHH
SOUND-ED LIKE THUN-DER.
B TH HH
THE PROBLEM IS THAT WE CAN'T SEE THE GROUND, EVEN IF IT WAS 30 FEET BELOW US.
I'M GOING TO RISE A LITTLE; I DON'T WANT TO CRASH INTO A MOUNTAIN.
CHP
HEY!!!
LOOK IN FRONT OF YOU!
WHAT ?!
DDD
HHOOO
H
OOD

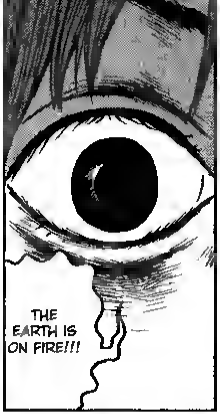

HHHHHAAAA!!!
HHAAA!
HHAAA!
BLOH
TAB
HH
DAH
BRKOMM
CRRAA
CRRAA
BRKOMM
SO, WHAT NOW?!
WE HAVE TO GET DOWN RIGHT AWAY!
HHHHAAAA!
DOO
DOO
DOO
HOO
HH


LOOK OUT!
ZZAAHHH
BRROOM
DO DOH
DOO DOO
HHHHHAAAA!!!


SSSAHHH...
SSSAHHH...
WHAT'S HAPPENED HERE?!



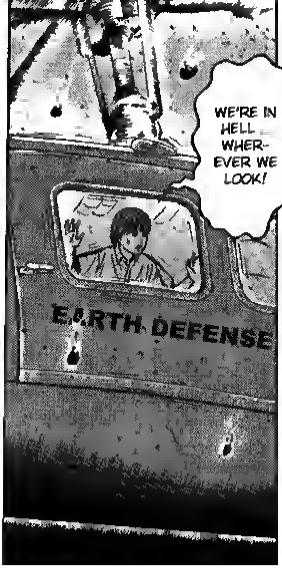

BLOP
BLOUB
BLORP


THE EARTH IS ON FIRE!!!


DODOOOH
BLAAMM
BRR
bloop
bliup


LOOK ON THE MAP TO CHECK WHERE WE ARE!
WHAT HAS HAP-PENED?!
HEY, BE CAUTIOUS!!!
VOOHHH
THAT CAN'T BE!
BR
ROOMM
OOOHH

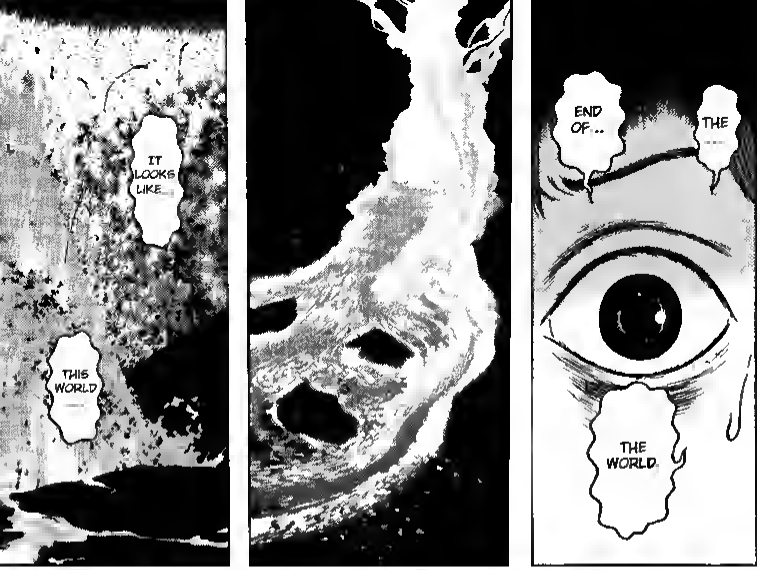

DOOH
DOOH


WE'RE IN HELL... WHER-EVER WE LOOK!
EARTH DEFENSE


GH GH GH
U.S.A.


DAT A
GH GH GH
GH GH GH
HOKU RUSE

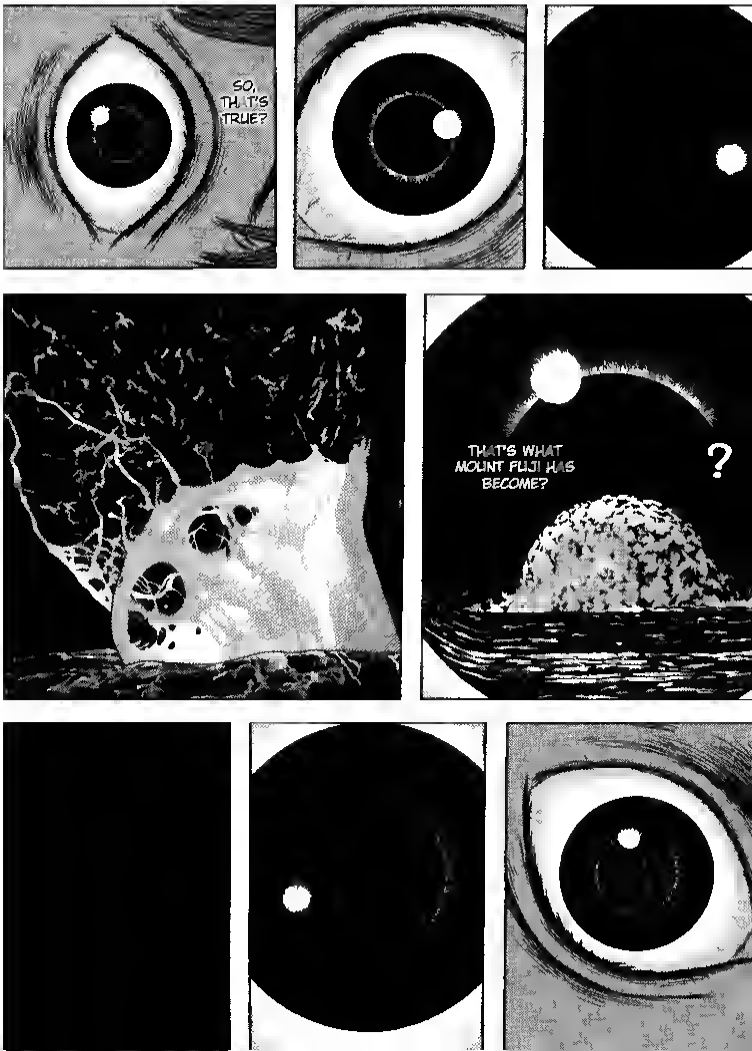

DOOH
BRRRMM

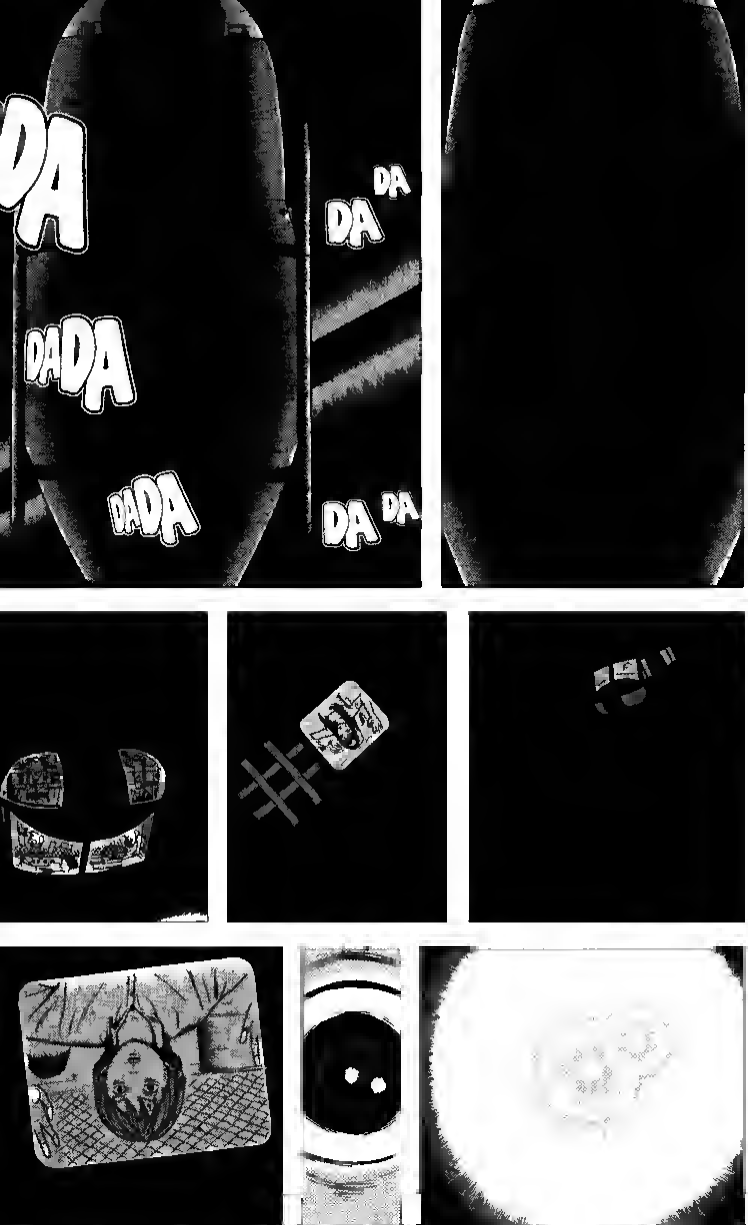

IT LOOKS LIKE...
THIS WORLD...
END OF...
THE
THE WORLD.

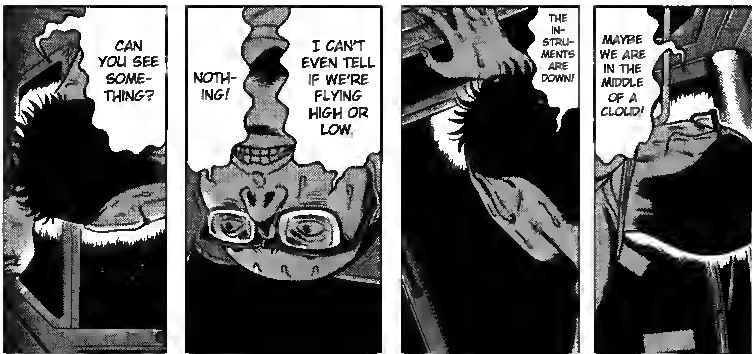

HAS ENDED.

DO
DO
DOOOHHH

BRRLOOM
¡¡AAAAAHHHH !!!

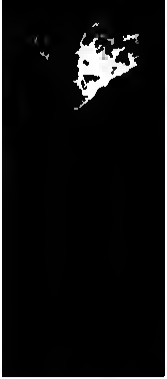

SO, THAT'S TRUE?
THAT'S WHAT MOUNT FUJI HAS BECOME?
?


DA
DADA
DADA
DA
DA
DA
DA


CAN YOU SEE SOME-THING?
NOTH-ING!
I CAN'T EVEN TELL IF WE'RE FLYING HIGH OR LOW.
THE IN-STRU-MENTS ARE DOWN!
MAYBE WE ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF A CLOUD!



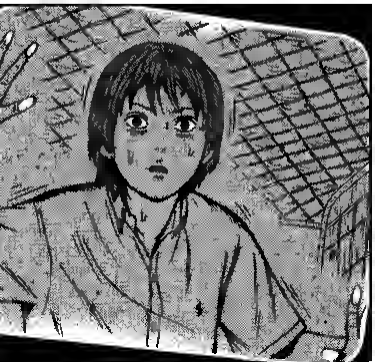

THERE!
LIGHT..






THERE'S NO PLACE WE CAN LAND ON.

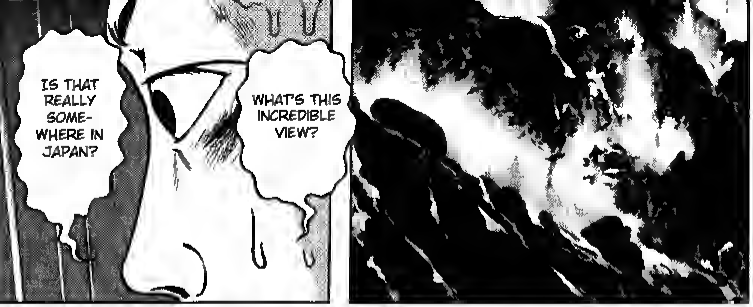


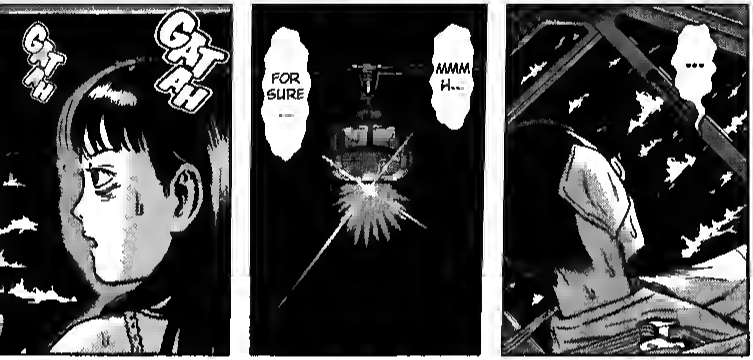




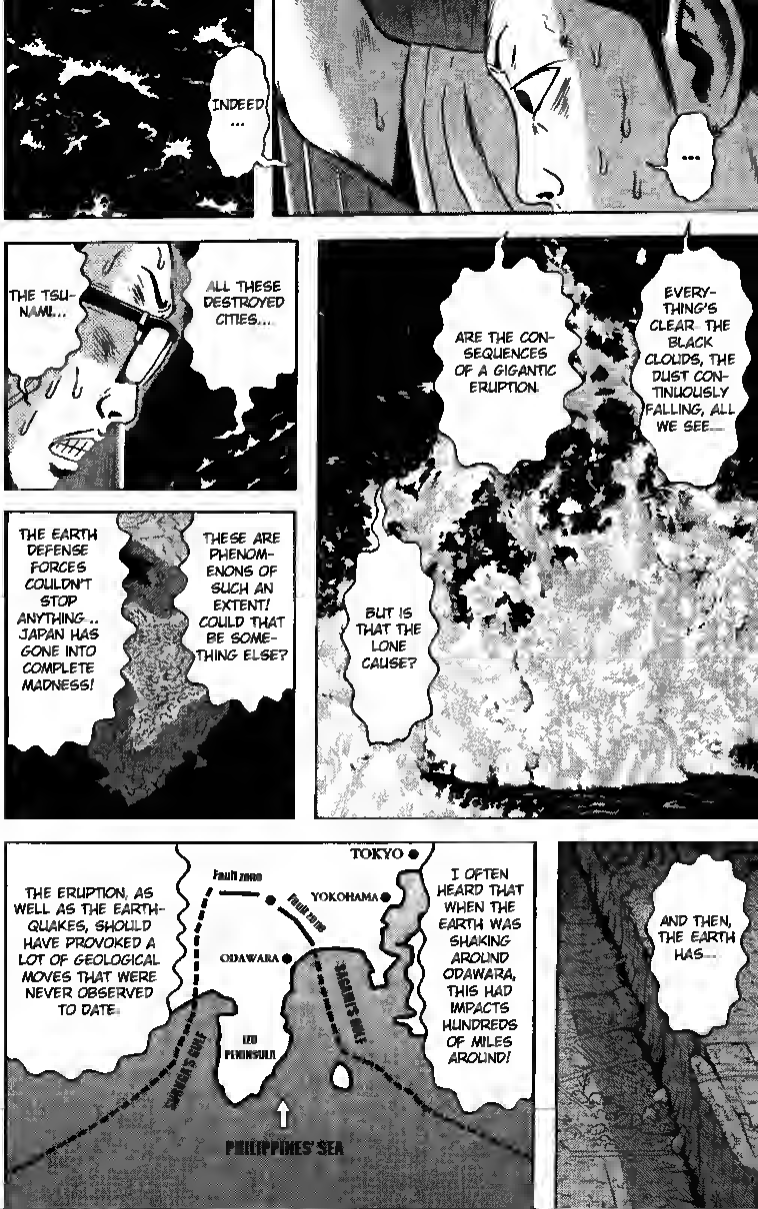

WE HAVE TO CONTINUE TO FLY.

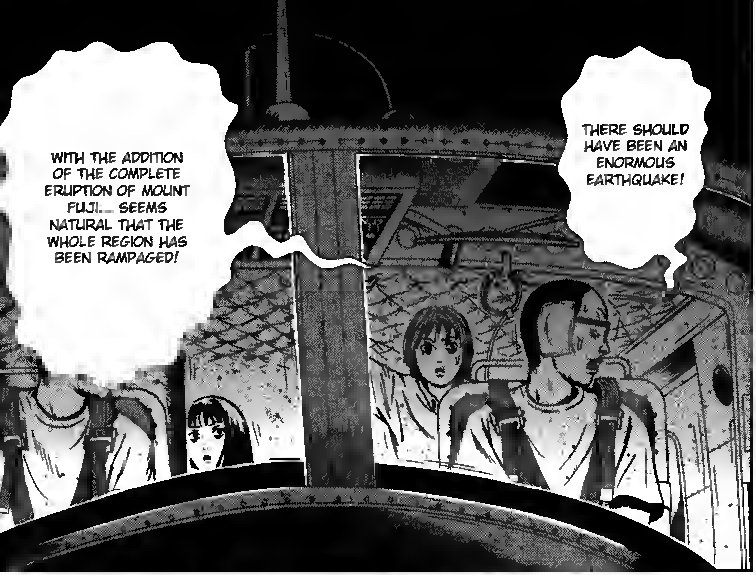



IS THAT REALLY SOME-WHERE IN JAPAN?
WHAT'S THIS INCREDIBLE VIEW?

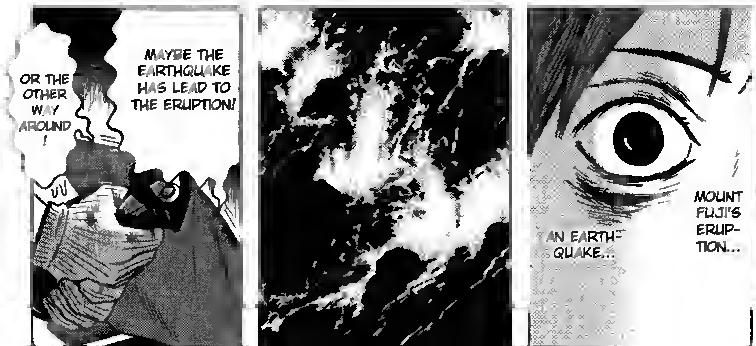

GATAH
GATAH
FOR SURE...
MMMH...
...


AN ERUPTION WHOSE EXTENT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT IS HAS NOT ENDED YET!
THIS IS MOUNT FUJI!
A VOLCANIC ERUPTION COMING OUT OF MOUNT FUJI HAS DEVAS-TATED JAPAN.
DATAH
DATAH


INDEED...
...
THE TSUNAMI...
ALL THESE DESTROYED CITIES...
ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF A GIGANTIC ERUPTION.
EVERYTHING'S CLEAR. THE BLACK CLOUDS, THE DUST CONTINUOUSLY FALLING, ALL WE SEE...
BUT IS THAT THE LONE CAUSE?
THE EARTH DEFENSE FORCES COULDN'T STOP ANYTHING... JAPAN HAS GONE INTO COMPLETE MADNESS!
THESE ARE PHENOMENONS OF SUCH AN EXTENT! COULD THAT BE SOMETHING ELSE?
THE ERUPTION, AS WELL AS THE EARTHQUAKES, SHOULD HAVE PROVOKED A LOT OF GEOLOGICAL MOVES THAT WERE NEVER OBSERVED TO DATE.
TOKYO
Fault zone
YOKOHAMA
ODAWARA
SAGAMI BAY
IZU PENINSULA
SAGAMI GULF
PHILIPPINES' SEA
I OFTEN HEARD THAT WHEN THE EARTH WAS SHAKING AROUND ODAWARA, THIS HAD IMPACTS HUNDREDS OF MILES AROUND!
AND THEN, THE EARTH HAS...


WITH THE ADDITION OF THE COMPLETE ERUPTION OF MOUNT FUJI... SEEMS NATURAL THAT THE WHOLE REGION HAS BEEN RAMPAGED!
THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN AN ENORMOUS EARTHQUAKE!



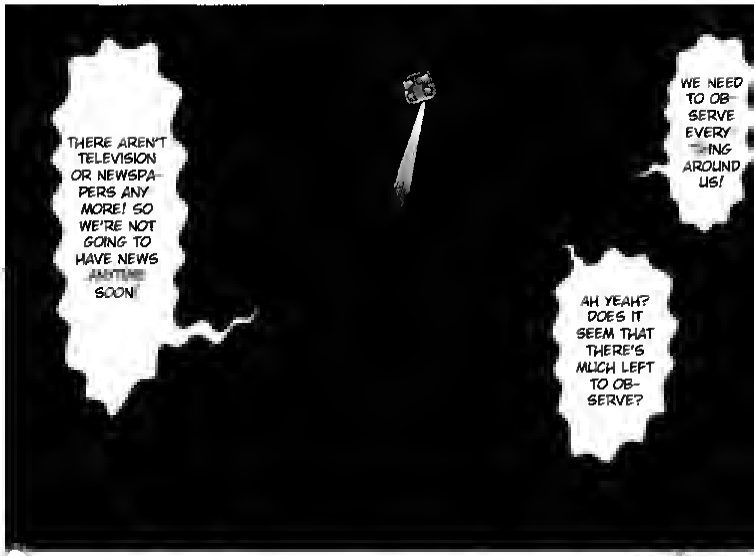

OR THE OTHER WAY AROUND!
MAYBE THE EARTHQUAKE HAS LEAD TO THE ERUPTION!
AN EARTHQUAKE...
MOUNT FUJI'S ERUPTION...


KANTO'S REGION IS IN THE DARK, COVERED BY ASHES. THE FORCE OF MOUNT FUJI'S EXPLOSION SHOULD HAVE HOT ASH CLOUDS VERY HIGH IN THE SKY. PUSHED BY THE WEST WINDS COMING FROM THE TOKAIDO REGION, THEY'RE LEADING SLOWLY BUT SURELY TOWARDS THE EAST!
THESE TWO EVENTS WERE ENOUGH TO CREATE CHAOS IN THE WHOLE COUNTRY!
THESE EFFECTS HAVE DEVASTATED IT ALL
THE ELECTRIC POWER IS DOWN IN THE WHOLE CITY, AND WITH ALL THE DUST THAT IS FALLING, THERE SHOULD BE COMPLETE DARKNESS
IT LOOKS LIKE TOKYO'S COMPLETELY IN THE DARK!
HE!
GAT DAT AH AH
WE HAD GONE TO CHECK THEM
MOST OF THEM PROBABLY MADE UP
MANY STORIES ARE BEING TOLD


YES...
...
THERE'S BEEN A HUGE ERUPTION.
THERE ARE MANY REGIONS IN JAPAN FROM WHICH WE HAVE NO NEWS
BUT IT'S TOO EARLY TO CONCLUDE THAT IT'S THE ONLY CAUSE TO ALL THAT WE SEE
I THINK YOU'RE READING TOO MUCH SCIENCE FICTION!
FOR NOW, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED!
THE CAUSE OF THIS CHAOS MAY NOT BE NATURAL...
THAT MAY BE THE RESULT OF A SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENT. MAYBE ATOMIC BOMBS HAVE CRASHED ON THE REGION...
THAT MIGHT ALSO BE A HUGE METEORITE THAT FELL ON MOUNT FUJI... OR SOMETHING EVEN MORE MYSTERIOUS.

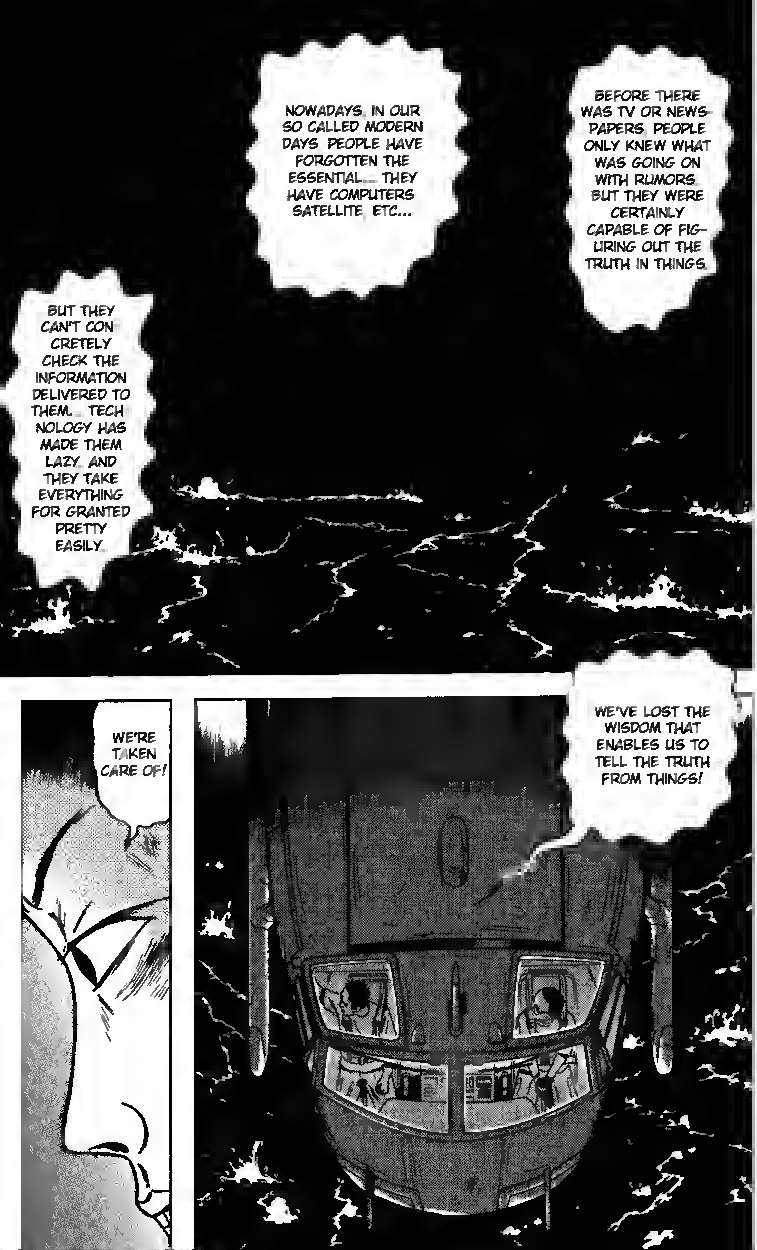

BUT YOU'RE RIGHT, WHO CAN TELL WHAT REALLY HAPPENED?


HAH!!!
YOU'RE WAY TOO REALIS-TIC!

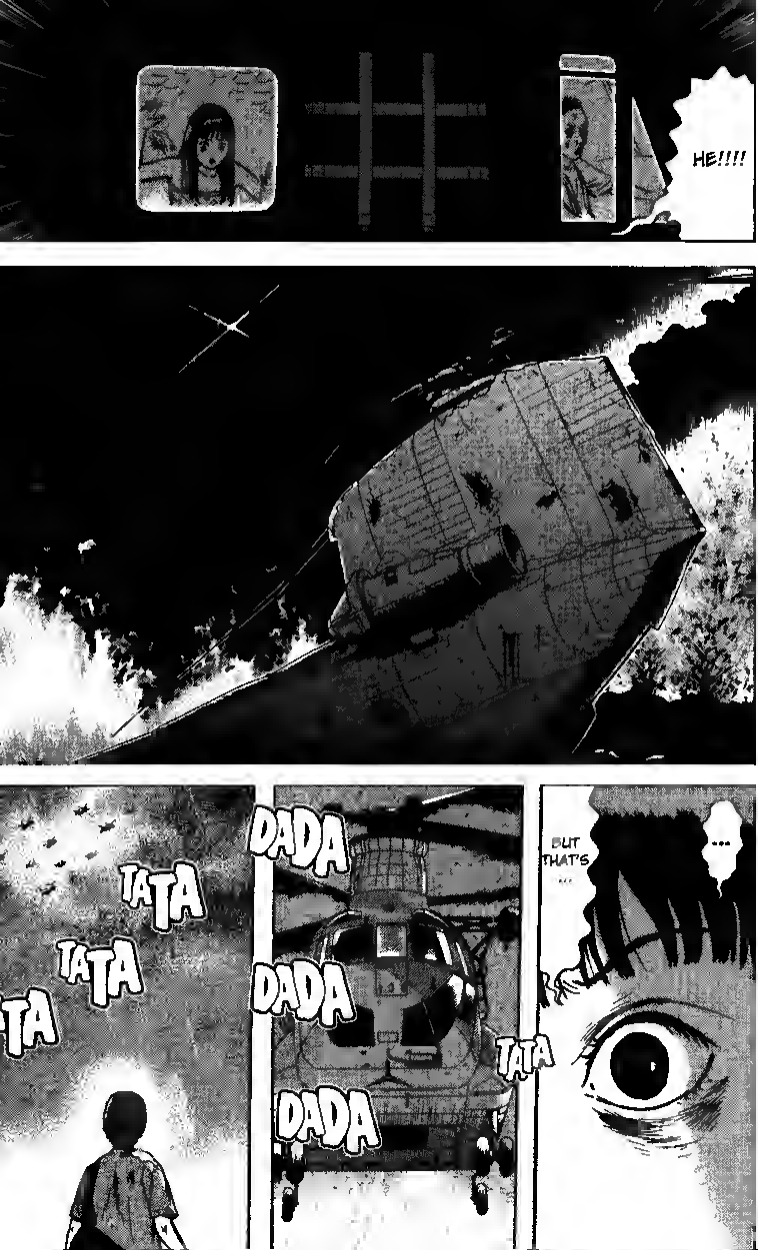

THERE AREN'T TELEVISION OR NEWSPA-PERS ANY MORE! SO WE'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE NEWS ANYTIME SOON!
WE NEED TO OB-SERVE EVERY-ING AROUND US!
AH YEAH? DOES IT SEEM THAT THERE'S MUCH LEFT TO OB-SERVE?


TA HA
TA HA


WE'RE LIVING WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT'S HAPPENING WITHIN A MILE FROM US... AND I BELIEVE THAT'S GONNA LAST LONG.
WE'RE BACK AT TIMES WHERE WE CAN ONLY TRUST OUR OWN EYES...


BEFORE THERE WAS TV OR NEWSPAPERS, PEOPLE ONLY KNEW WHAT WAS GOING ON WITH RUMORS. BUT THEY WERE CERTAINLY CAPABLE OF FIGURING OUT THE TRUTH IN THINGS.
NOWADAYS, IN OUR SO CALLED MODERN DAYS, PEOPLE HAVE FORGOTTEN THE ESSENTIAL... THEY HAVE COMPUTERS, SATELLITE, ETC...
BUT THEY CAN'T CONCRETELY CHECK THE INFORMATION DELIVERED TO THEM... TECHNOLOGY HAS MADE THEM LAZY, AND THEY TAKE EVERYTHING FOR GRANTED PRETTY EASILY.
WE'VE LOST THE WISDOM THAT ENABLES US TO TELL THE TRUTH FROM THINGS!
WE'RE TAKEN CARE OF!


THAT MIGHT BE TRUE, WE'RE NO LONGER ABLE TO JUDGE THINGS BY OURSELVES, BUT... BUT...
I THOUGHT I SAW SOME-THING DOWN THERE!
!?
WHAT COULD IT BE?
THAT WAS JUST BELOW US! THAT HAD A STRANGE SHAPE!
I COULD ONLY SEE A GLIMPSE OF IT, BUT...
LET'S CHECK, GO DOWN!


HE!!!!
DADA
TATA
TATA
TA
DADA
DADA
TATA
BUT THAT'S ...
....




IT'S REALLY THEM!
IT LOOKS LIKE THE SQUAD WE HAD LEFT WITH! ALL THE HELICOPTERS ARE DESTROYED!


SEEMS LIKE THEY'VE BEEN HIT BY A RAIN OF FIRE STONES
...
SO HORRIBLE!
IF THERE WAS A COMPANY AROUND HERE, THERE SHOULDN'T BE MUCH OF IT LEFT...
TO THE MAIN DIVISION OF TOKYO'S REGION, SHOULDN'T THEY?
THEY SHOULD GO...
ALL THIS BECAUSE OF MOUNT FUJI'S EXPLOSION!
BECAUSE OF THE ERUPTION, THEY DIDN'T MAKE IT!
YES... THE COMPANY IS CLOSE FROM HERE AT LEAST IT WAS SOME WEEKS AGO...

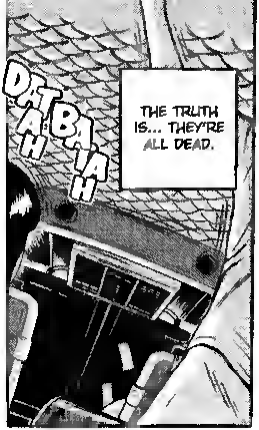

I THINK WE SHOULD LEAVE THIS CURSED PLACE RIGHT AWAY!
WHAT FOR?
!?
WHERE EXACTLY IS MOUNT FUJI?! IN WHICH DIRECTION? I THINK WE SHOULD GO THERE!
MAYBE I WON'T FIGURE ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT WE'LL SEE... MAYBE WE WON'T GET ANY ANSWER.
WE MIGHT NEVER KNOW WHAT THE WORLD HAS BECOME... AND WHAT'S REMAINING OF JAPAN...
WE MAY BE TINY LITTLE HUMAN BEINGS, POWERLESS IN FRONT OF SUCH EVENTS...
HELL NO! WE HAVE NOT COME HERE TO GO BACK!
I WANNA KNOW WHAT HAPPENED!
BUT... BUT...
I WANNA SEE IT ALL!!!


I WANNA TRY TO UNDER-STAND THE REASON FOR THESE HOR-RORS!
WITH MY OWN EYES!
I WANNA KNOW WHAT HAP-PENED DEEP INSIDE THE DARKNESS!


DADA
DADA
DADA
DADA
DADA
IF WE STAY HERE, WE'RE GONNA END UP LIKE THE OTHER CHOPPERS! WE CAN'T SEE MOUNT FUJI BECAUSE OF THAT DARKNESS! WE MIGHT CRASH ON ITS FLANKS!
WE CAN'T KEEP ON FLYING LIKE THIS WITH NO AIM. WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING!
DADA
DADA
DADA
WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A BLACK HOLE!
DADA
DADA


LIKE WE'RE ASPI RATED... LIKE WE'RE GOING TO BE DISSOLVED BY THE CLOUDS THAT ARE SURROUNDING US!
IT'S LIKE WE'RE NOT FLYING ANYMORE!
WHAT A WEIRD FEEL- ING!

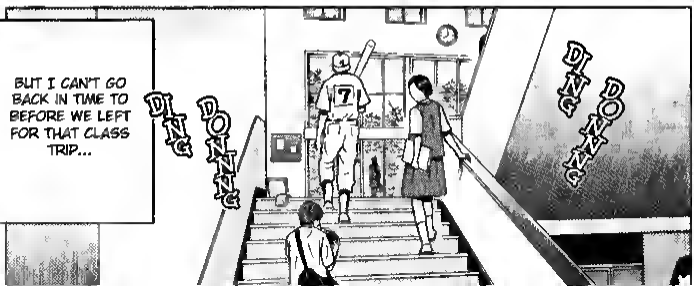



DA
AH
BA
AH
THE TRUTH IS... THEY'RE ALL DEAD.


CA
AH
CA
AH

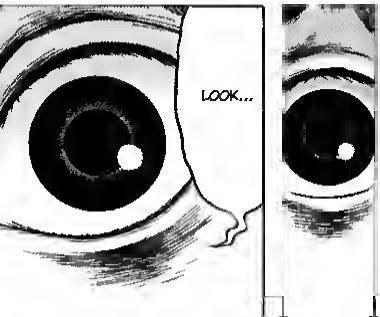

CHAPTER 70
AN ENDLESS PIT


NOBUO... ALL OF THEM.
MY FRIENDS AND TEACHERS.


BUT I CAN'T GO BACK IN TIME TO BEFORE WE LEFT FOR THAT CLASS TRIP...
DING
DONNG
DING
DONNG
7

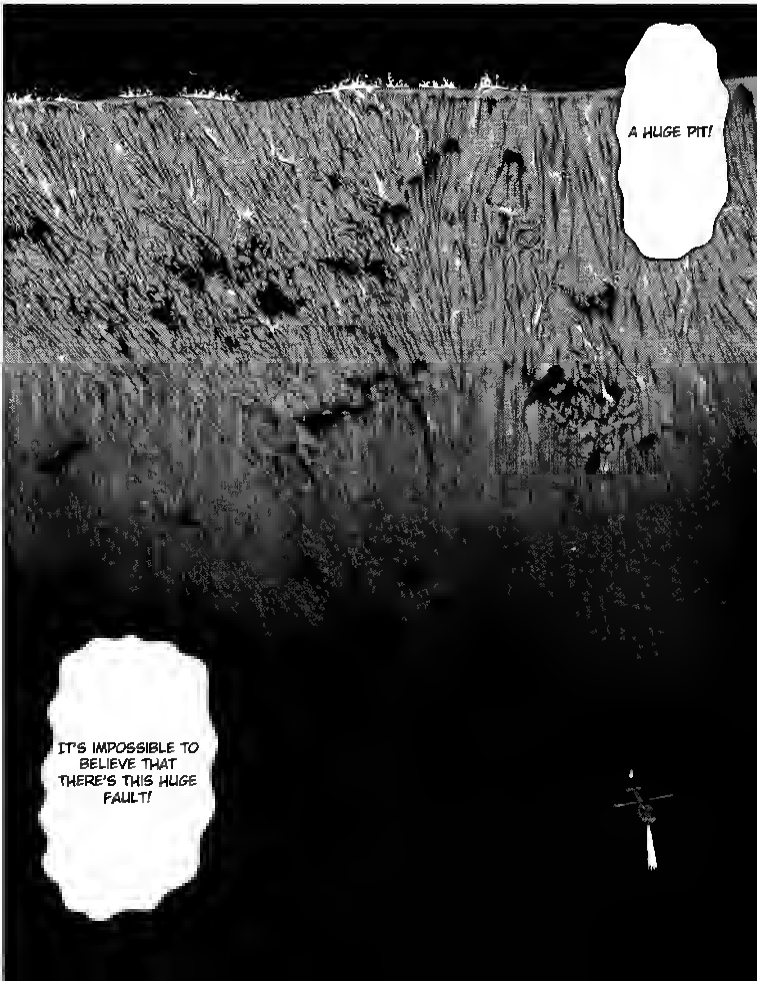

THAT CAN'T BE. THEY CAN'T STOP LIKE THIS!
!?



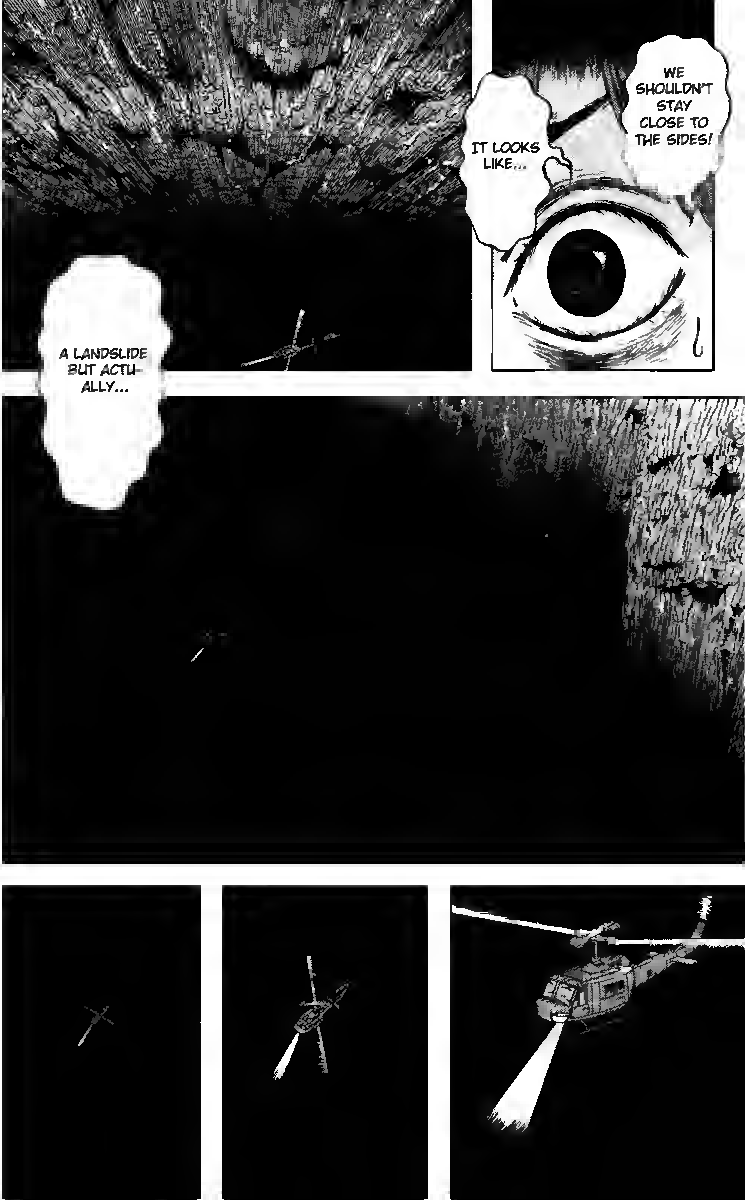

LOOK...




THAT'S A PIT!
!?


A HUGE PIT!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO BELIEVE THAT THERE'S THIS HUGE FAULT!

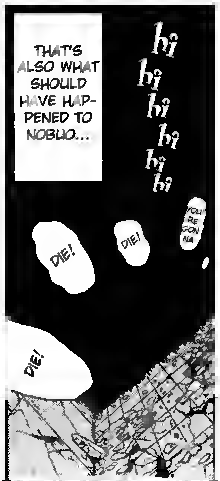

DATAH
DTAH
BTAH
GTAH
THAT'S VERY DANGEROUS! WE NEED TO STAY CLOSE TO THE SIDES
...
IT GOES FOREVER IN BOTH WAYS...
THAT'S IN-CRED-IBLE...
IT'S NOT...
FAULT!


WE SHOULDN'T STAY CLOSE TO THE SIDES!
IT LOOKS LIKE...
A LANDSLIDE BUT ACTU-ALLY...


WE COULDN'T AVOID ALL THESE THINGS
DEATH ...
THE DISEASE..
THE ACCIDENT..
THE TUNNEL..
ALL THESE EVENTS THAT JUST HAPPENED ARE IMPOSSIBLE FOR MEN TO UNDERSTAND.
CATASTROPHES, DEATH, SUDDEN DISEASE...
MEN INSTINCTIVELY FEAR WHAT THEY DON'T KNOW OR UNDERSTAND.
AS NIMURA MENTIONED, MEN CAN'T COMPREHEND WHAT HAPPENS A FEW MILES FROM HOME.
WHATEVER HAPPENS... WHETHER THEY REFUSE TO COPE OR CHOOSE TO FIGHT...
IN ACTUAL FACT...


NOW, I DON'T WANT TO BE TROUBLED BY ANYTHING.
I WAS AFRAID OF THIS DARKNESS, AS IF IT REPRESENTED THE END OF EVERYTHING... BUT I WAS STUPID!

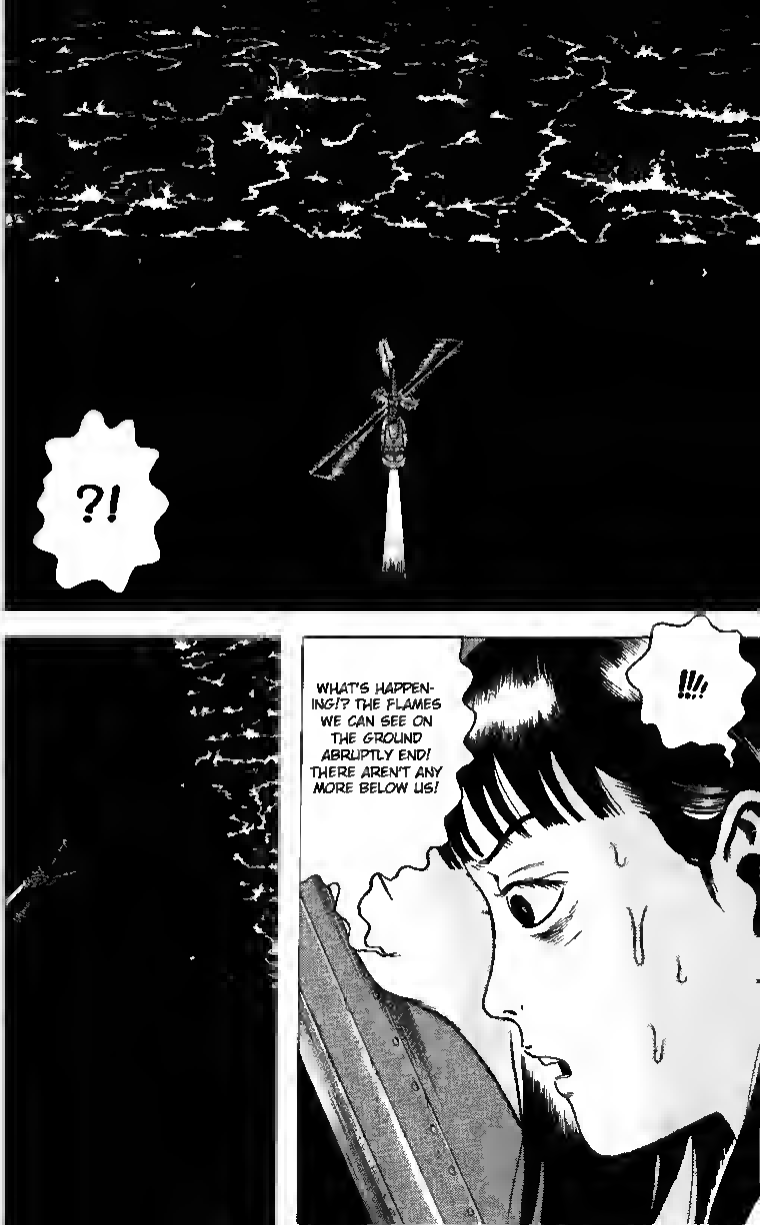

INSIDE, I WAS TROUBLED... MY LIFE WAS IN CONFLICT WITH ITSELF.
INDEED...


THAT'S ALSO WHAT SHOULD HAVE HAPPENED TO NOBUO...
hi hi hi hi hi
DIE!
DIE!
DIE!


WHEN I WAS IN THIS TUNNEL, LITTLE BY LITTLE IT INVADED MY HEART... AND TOOK POSSESSION OF IT.
ha ha ha ha

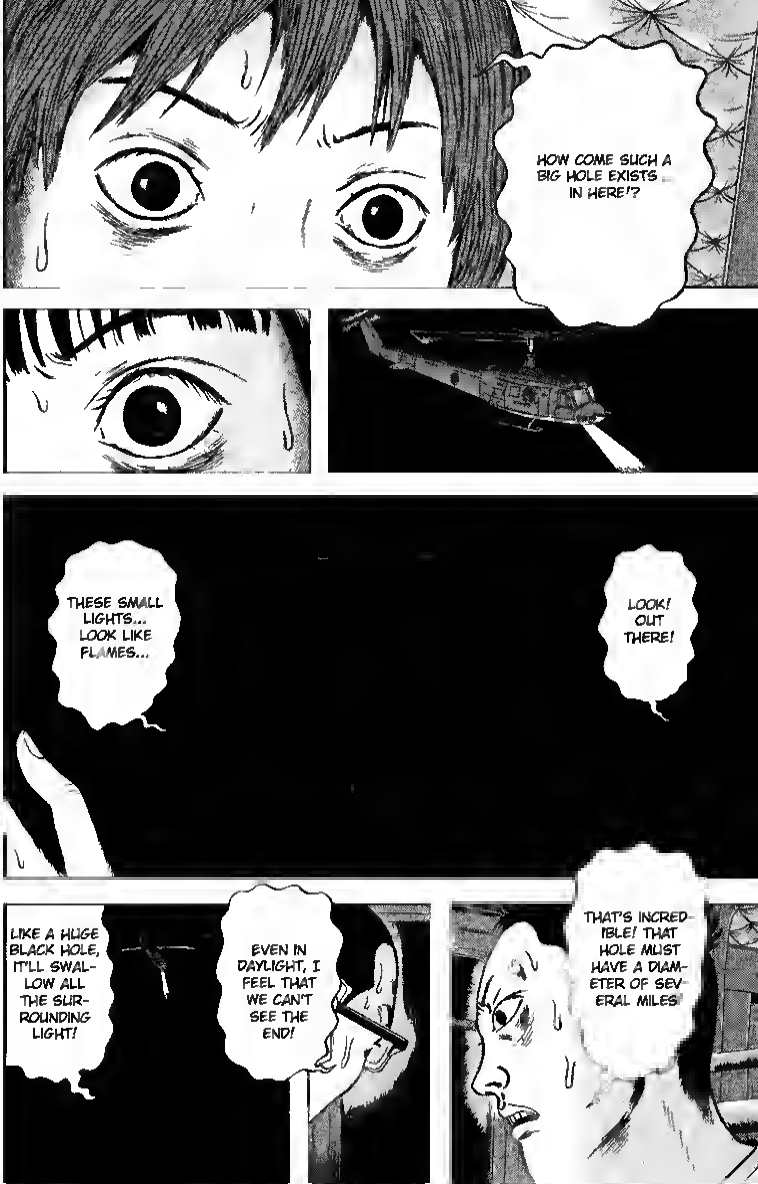

BUT... DARKNESS...
I WANTED TO BE COURAGEOUS...


THIS DARKNESS...
AND NOW...
THIS DARKNESS...
NOBUO DISAPPEARED!
AND THEN...
IS A SCARY THING!
NOTHING CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT!
IT'S SCARY BECAUSE WE CAN NEVER KNOW WHAT IT HIDES! WE DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'LL CONTAIN, AND THAT'S THE WORST OF IT ALL!
BECAUSE OF THAT, OUR HEART STAYS A PRISONER OF FEAR AT EVERY INSTANT!
ZZZOOM!


?!
!!!
WHAT'S HAPPENING!? THE FLAMES WE CAN SEE ON THE GROUND ABRUPTLY END! THERE AREN'T ANY MORE BELOW US!

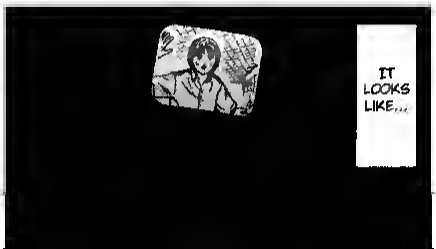

THAT'S A HOLE! A HOLE WITH A SIZE BEYOND IMAGINATION!


IT'S AN ENDLESS DARK WELL!!!


HOW COME SUCH A BIG HOLE EXISTS IN HERE!?
THESE SMALL LIGHTS... LOOK LIKE FLAMES...
LOOK! OUT THERE!
LIKE A HUGE BLACK HOLE, IT'LL SWALLOW ALL THE SURROUNDING LIGHT!
EVEN IN DAYLIGHT, I FEEL THAT WE CAN'T SEE THE END!
THAT'S INCREDIBLE! THAT HOLE MUST HAVE A DIAMETER OF SEVERAL MILES!


IT LOOKS LIKE ...
IT GOES DOWN TO THE HEART OF THE EARTH!
NO... IT'S LIKE IT'S GOING DOWN TO THE KINGDOM OF THE DEAD!
THAT'S A DARK WELL!



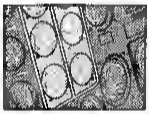

IT LOOKS LIKE...

WHO KNOWS... MAYBE HELL'S GATES HAVE OPENED!

THIS HOLE COMMUNICATES WITH THE CENTER OF THE EARTH!

THAT WAS MAYBE A WORLD...





RULED BY ENDLESS DARKNESS... AND COMPLETE SILENCE!

WE COULDN'T SEE A THING. BASED ON THE DISTANCE WE HAD COVERED, WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN SEING MOUNT FUJI.

A BOTTOMLESS VOID. A VOID THAT WAS OPENING A GIGANTIC MOUTH, AS IF IT WAS GOING TO SWALLOW EVERYTHING!

HERE, THERE WAS ONLY...

INSTEAD, THERE WAS AN ENORMOUS HOLE, A BLACK WELL GOING DOWN TO THE INSIDE OF THE EARTH.

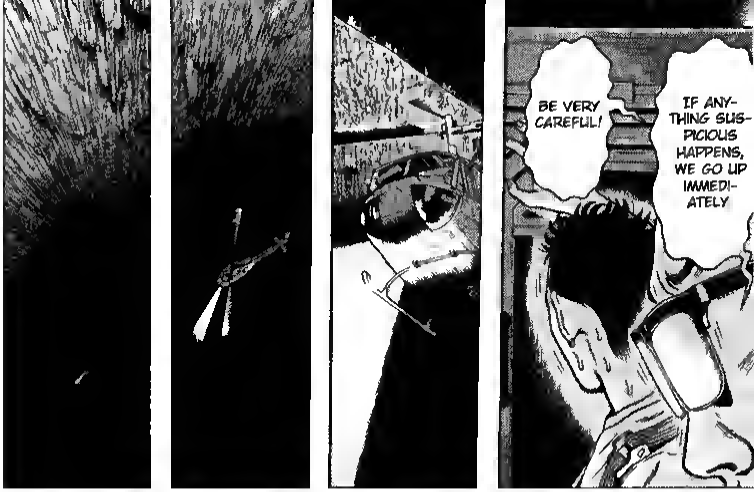
AND, ITS FAMILIAR SHAPE WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.

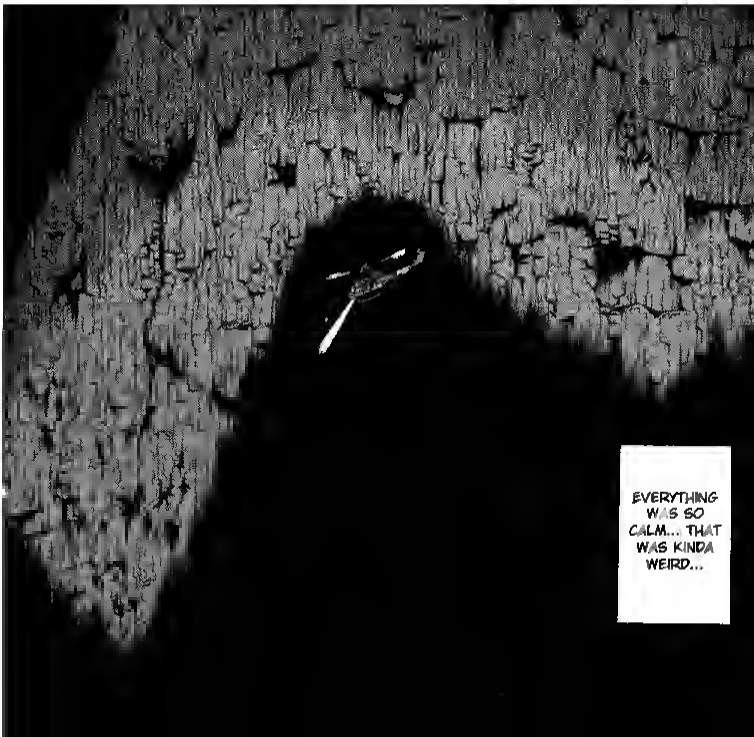
WE WERE FLYING ABOVE THE SURROUNDINGS OF MOUNT FUJI, AND MAYBE EVEN ABOVE IT.

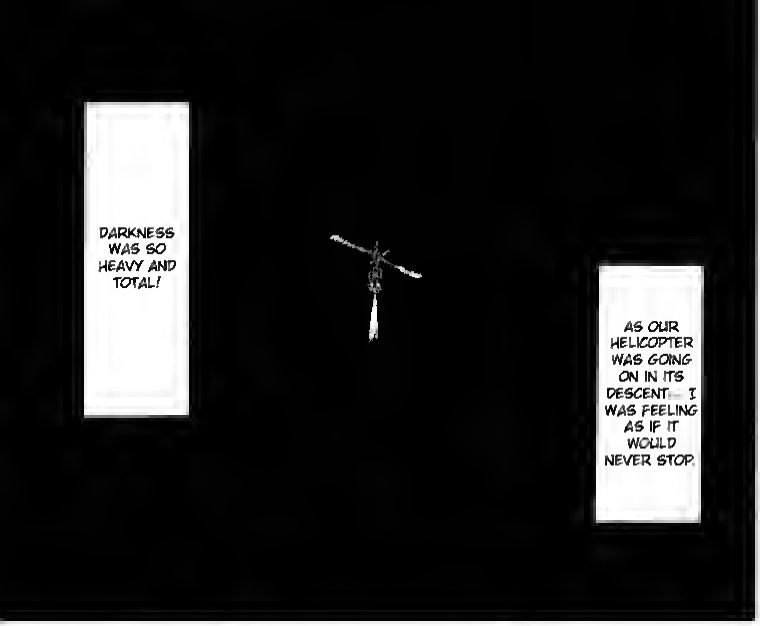
SINCE OUR NAVIGATION INSTRUMENTS WERE DAMAGED, IT WAS HARD TO MAKE AN ACCURATE ASSESSMENT, BUT WE KNEW THAT—.


COULD THIS HAVE BEEN PRO-VOKED BY AN ERUP-TION!?
THIS HOLE MIGHT BE THE CENTER OF THE ERUPTION.
WHEREAS ALL AROUND THERE ARE FLAMES LAVA, AND FUMES!
WHERE ARE THE LAVA AND FUMES?
BUT... IF THIS IS THE CENTER OF THE ERUP-TION...
THERE'S NO ACTIVITY IN THE BOTTOM OF THIS HOLE!
YOU THINK SO? CAN AN ERUP-TION BE SO POWERFUL THAT A MOUNTAIN SUCH AS MOUNT FUJI WOULD BE BROKEN INTO PIECES!? THAT SEEMS... CRAZY!


THAT WAS A GIGANTIC HOLE THAT WOULD HAVE SWALLOWED EVERYTHING IF IT COULD... AND I WAS SEEING OUR HELICOPTER GOING DOWN SLOWLY TO THE BOTTOM...

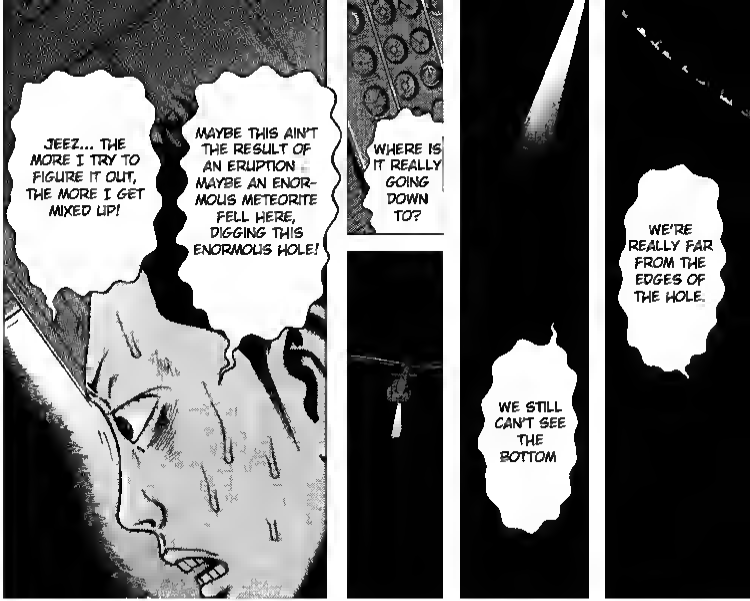

BE VERY CAREFUL!
IF ANY-THING SUS-PICIOUS HAPPENS, WE GO UP IMMEDI-ATELY


EVERYTHING WAS SO CALM... THAT WAS KINDA WEIRD...


DARKNESS WAS SO HEAVY AND TOTAL!
AS OUR HELICOPTER WAS GOING ON IN ITS DESCENT— I WAS FEELING AS IF IT WOULD NEVER STOP.





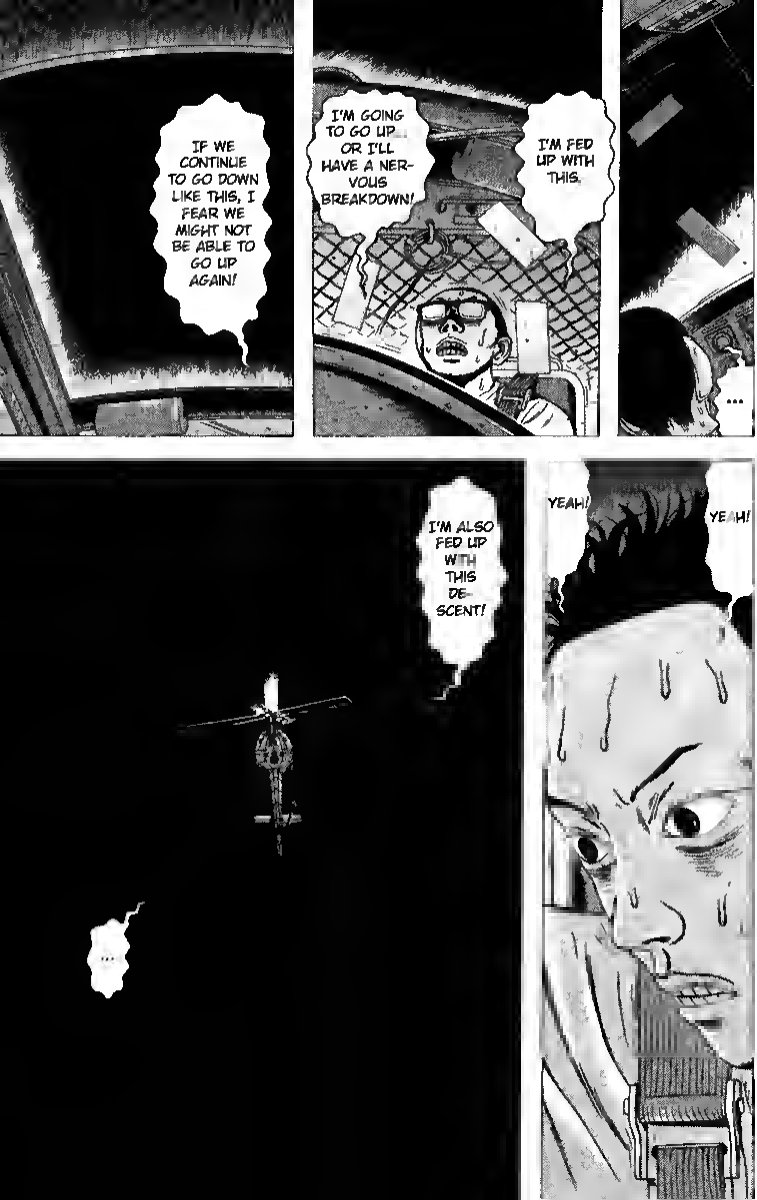

JEEZ... THE MORE I TRY TO FIGURE IT OUT, THE MORE I GET MIXED UP!
MAYBE THIS AIN'T THE RESULT OF AN ERUPTION – MAYBE AN ENORMOUS METEORITE FELL HERE, DIGGING THIS ENORMOUS HOLE!
WHERE IS IT REALLY GOING DOWN TO?
WE STILL CAN'T SEE THE BOTTOM
WE'RE REALLY FAR FROM THE EDGES OF THE HOLE.



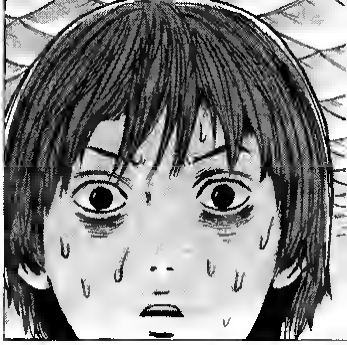

WHERE ARE WE REALLY GOING DOWN TO?


TERU!
YES!

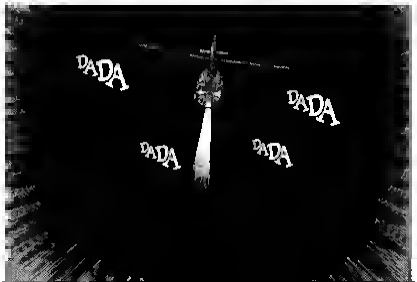

NOTHING!
WE DON'T SEE A THING!


IF WE CONTINUE TO GO DOWN LIKE THIS, I FEAR WE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO GO UP AGAIN!
I'M GOING TO GO UP OR I'LL HAVE A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN!
I'M FED UP WITH THIS.
...
I'M ALSO FED UP WITH THIS DESCENT!
...
YEAH!
YEAH!

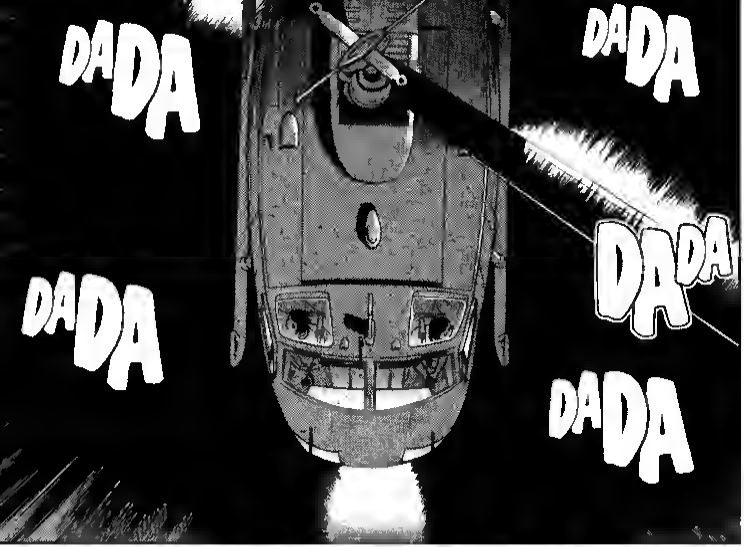




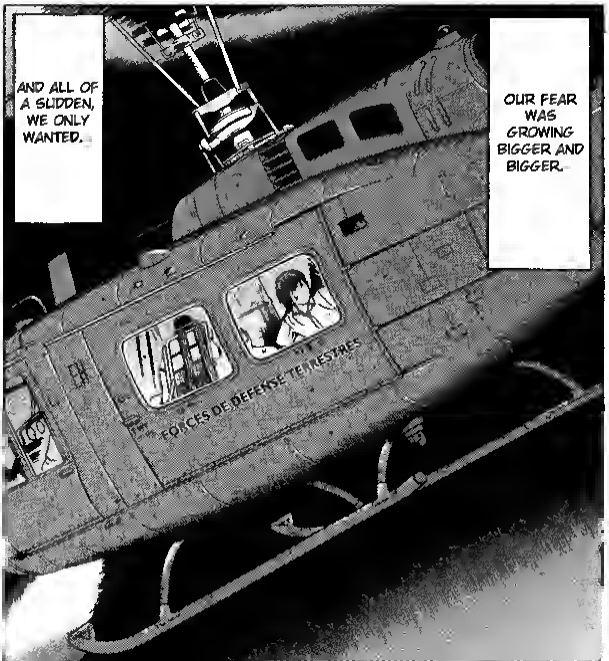

WE COULD GO DOWN LIKE THIS INDEFINITELY!
IT LOOKS LIKE THIS HOLE IS ENDLESS...

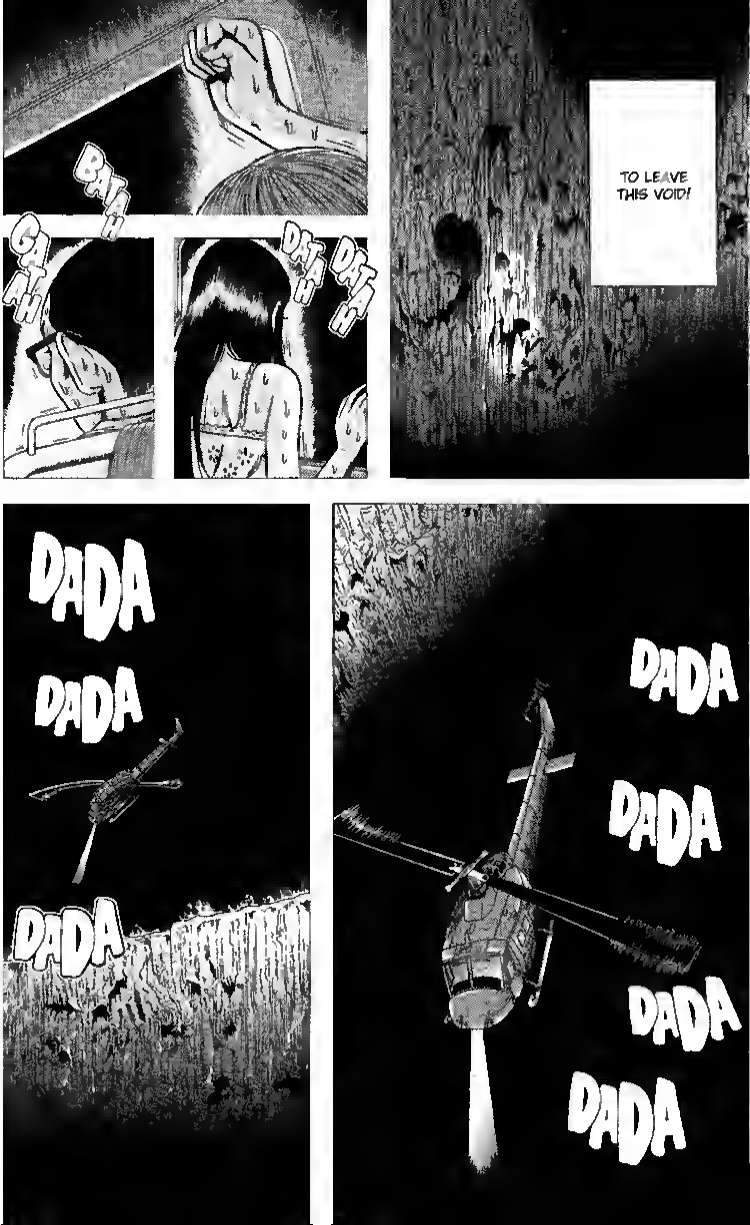

DADA
DADA
DADA
DADA




DADA
DADA
DADA
DADA
DADA

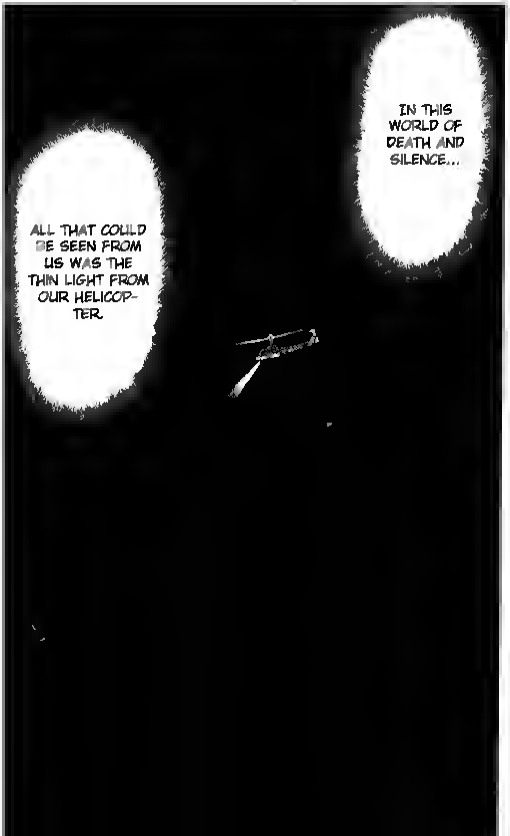

TO LEAVE THIS VOID!


AND ALL OF A SUDDEN, WE ONLY WANTED...
OUR FEAR WAS GROWING BIGGER AND BIGGER...
FORCES DE DÉFENSE TERRESTRES


BAH
GAH
DA
DA
TO LEAVE
THIS VOID!
DADA
DADA
DADA
DADA
DADA
DADA

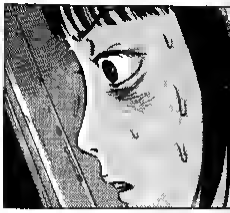

BUT... AFTER A MOMENT, I FELT ANOTHER FEELING IN MY HEART!
WHO WOULDN'T FEEL FRAIL AND POWERLESS AGAINST SUCH AN OBSCURITY? IT WAS AS IF WE WERE GOING TO DISAPPEAR FROM THIS WORLD AND FALL INTO DARKNESS...
DON'T YOU FIND IT INCREDIBLE THAT DESPITE ALL THESE CATASTROPHES...
AKO...
WE'RE STILL ALIVE!? I FEEL THAT THIS IS A TRUE MIRACLE!


I WAS FEELING HER WARM HAND... I KNEW I WAS ALIVE, AND I WAS FEELING IT WITH A NEW SENSE. A FEELING OF WELL-BEING WAS INVADING ME, AND I HAD THE IMPRESSION TO LOVE LIFE MORE THAN I HAD EVER LOVED IT BEFORE.

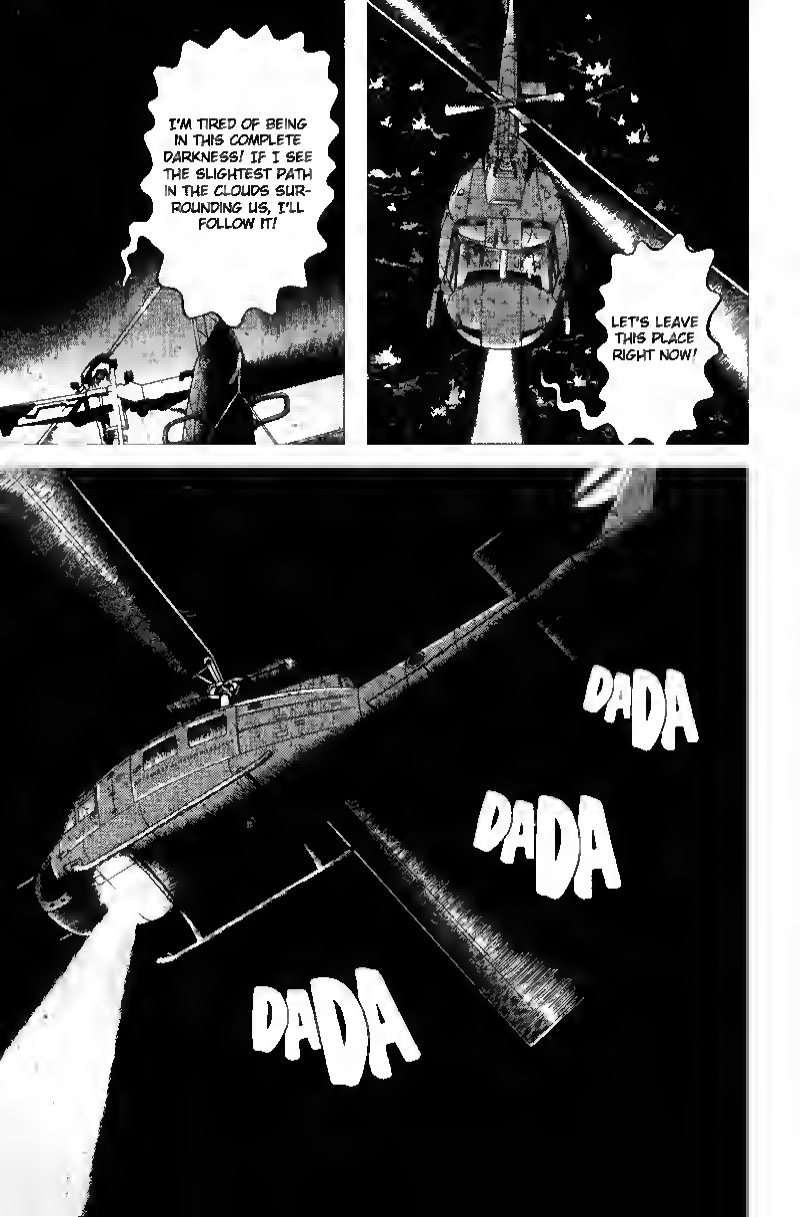

IN THIS WORLD OF DEATH AND SILENCE...
ALL THAT COULD BE SEEN FROM US WAS THE THIN LIGHT FROM OUR HELICOP-TER.








FROM THAT FAR...


I'M TIRED OF BEING IN THIS COMPLETE DARKNESS! IF I SEE THE SLIGHTEST PATH IN THE CLOUDS SURROUNDING US, I'LL FOLLOW IT!
LET'S LEAVE THIS PLACE RIGHT NOW!
DADA
DADA
DADA

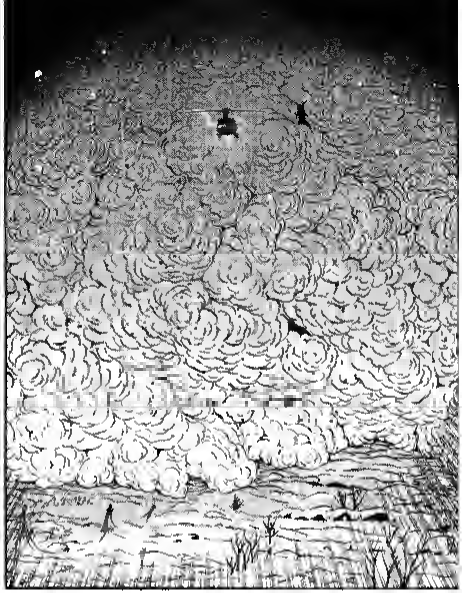

OR DID A METEORITE FALL FROM THE SKY, DIGGING A GIGANTIC HOLE?
WE WERE LEFT WITHOUT ANSWERS TO OUR NUMEROUS QUESTIONS... MOUNT FUJI... HAD IT DISAPPEARED AFTER A GIGANTIC ERUPTION?


NO ONE HAD THE ANSWER...
ALL THE CATASTROPHES THAT WE WITNESSED. DID THEY HAVE THE SAME CAUSE? THAT SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE...
AND EVEN IN A FEW YEARS, IF THINGS GO BACK TO NORMAL. IT'S LIKELY THAT NO ONE WILL EVER FIND THE TRUE CAUSE OF THESE CATASTROPHES THAT SEEM TO COME FROM NATURE

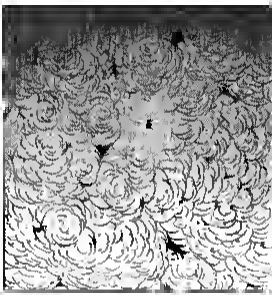

BUT WE WERE FEELING THEM VERY CLEARLY...
FOR NOW, WE CAN FEEL OUR OWN LIVES IN THIS COMPLETE DARKNESS... MAYBE THEY WERE WEAK LIKE OUR HELICOPTER'S LIGHT...

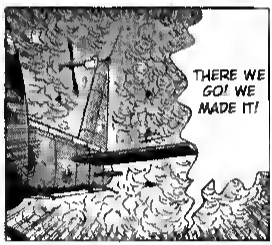

THINKING ABOUT ALL THIS, I DIDN'T FEEL, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE PRESENCE OF THAT MONSTER LIVING IN THE DARKNESS...

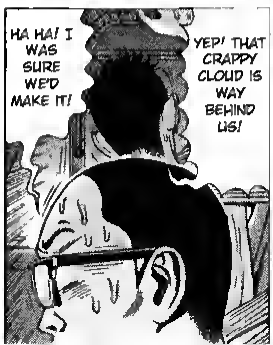

ZZZZAAAAHHHHH
GATAH
GATAH
BATAH
DATAH
DATAH
GATAH
MM...
DATAH
GATAH
FHH
DATAH
HAA
GATAH
CHAPTER 71
THE SHOPPING MALL



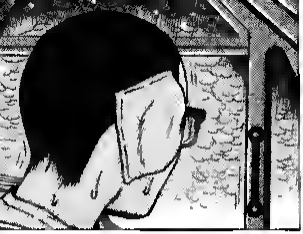





THERE WE GO! WE MADE IT!


HA HA! I WAS SURE WE'D MAKE IT!
YEP! THAT CRAPPY CLOUD IS WAY BEHIND US!

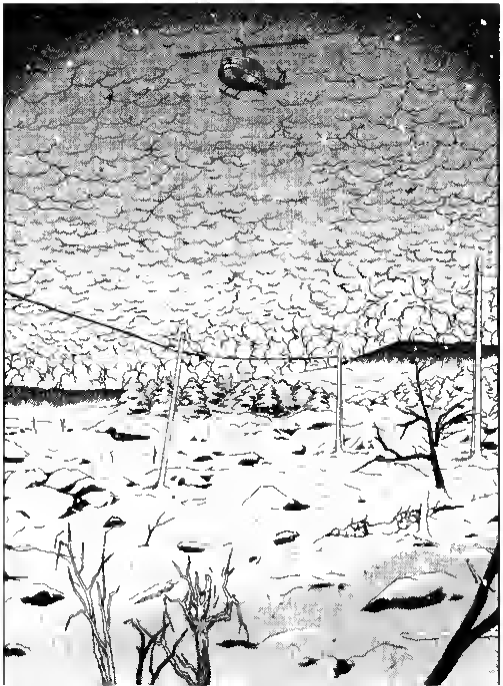





FORCES DE DEFENSE TERRESTRES


HEY... WHAT THE HELL IS THAT!?
!?


THIS CAN'T BE! SNOW AFTER ALL THAT HEAT AND FLAMES...
SNOW ?
SNOW ?



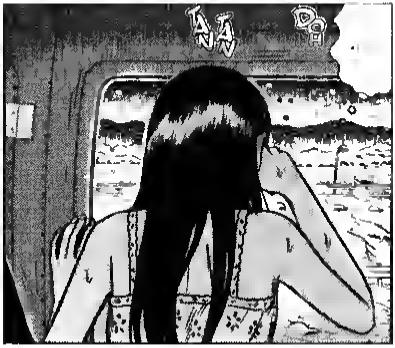



THESE ARE FINE, LIGHT GREY PARTICLES.
NO... THIS ISN'T SNOW.
THEY DON'T MELT ON CONTACT WITH OUR HELICOPTER... THIS IS DUST!
THIS IS A WEST WIND!
HOW? HOW COULD SUCH A LAYER OF ASH ACCUMULATE IN THIS REGION OF TOKYO?
AFTER THAT BLACK CLOUD, I FIND THIS VIEW ALMOST PRETTY!
INDEED!
HEY!


AN INCREDIBLE QUANTITY OF ASH HAS ACCUMULATED ON THE GROUND.
WE MADE IT OUT OF THE SCARY BLACK CLOUD.
THE WIND CARRIED ALL THIS ASH HERE.
KATSUNUMA
YAMANASHI region
Exit at 5km
TOKYO 82 km
TOKYO WASN'T VERY FAR. .
OUR HELICOPTER WAS FOLLOWING WHAT SEEMED TO BE A HIGHWAY!
WE WERE FINALLY GOING HOME! DAD, MUM, SIS!
I HOPE YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!


TAH
TAH
...


VERY SOON, WE'LL FINALLY BE HOME.

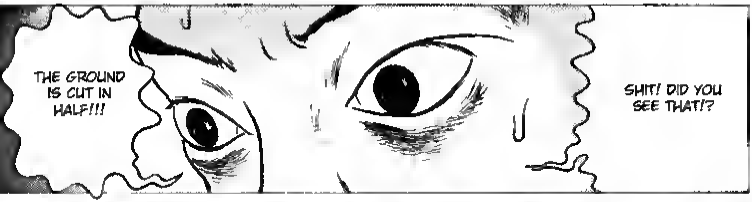

TAN
DAH

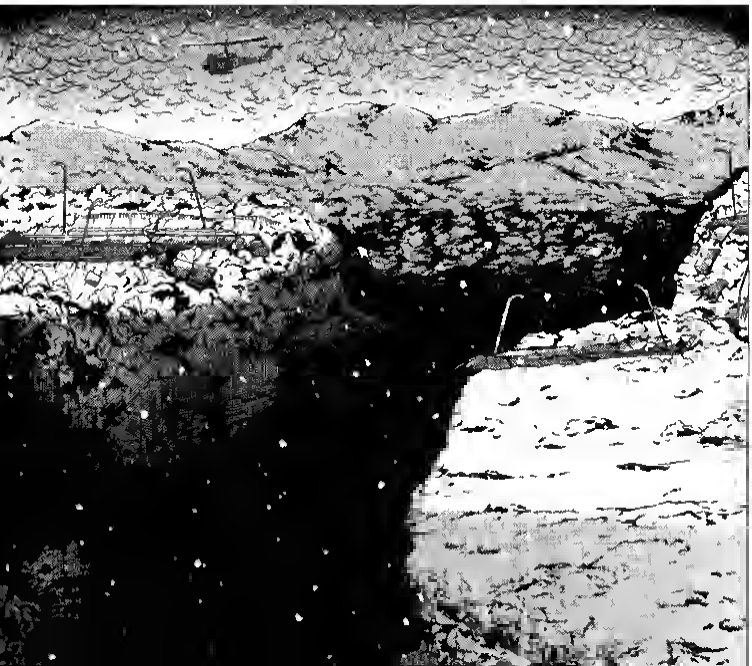

VERY SOON...
SOON. TOKYO..


NO.. IT'S NOTHING..
WHAT?

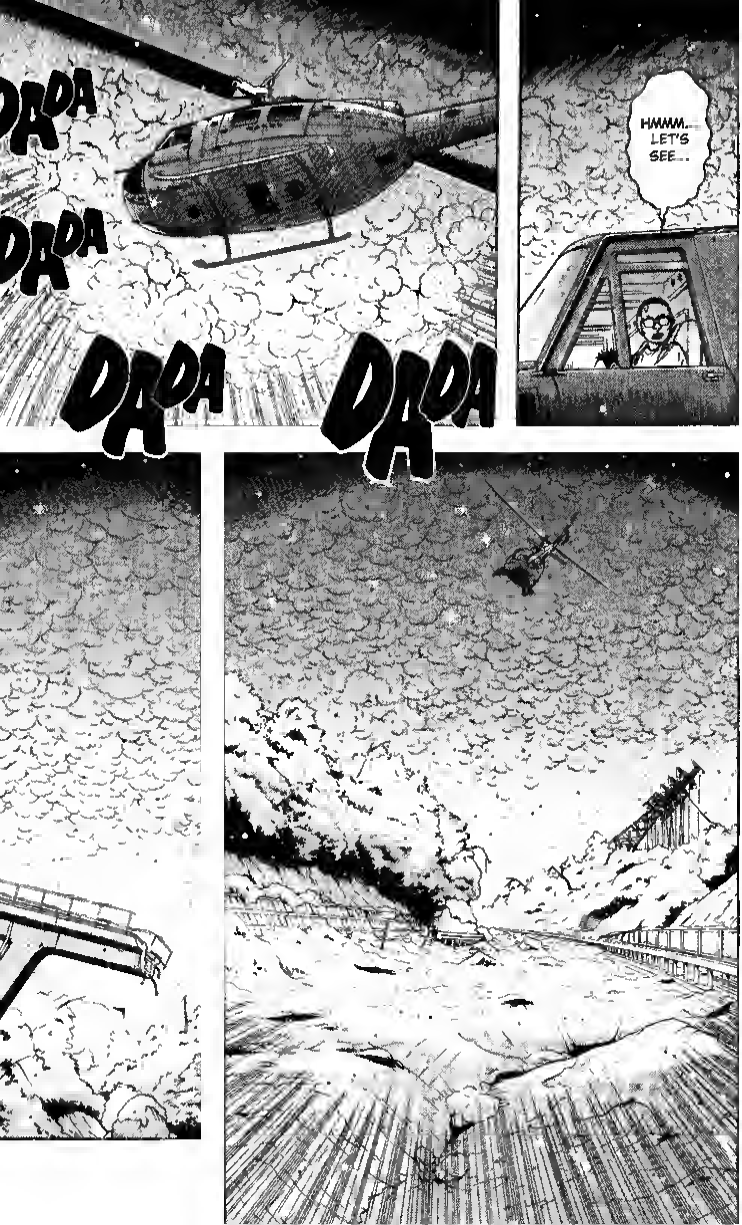

AKO, AREN'T YOU FEELING WELL?

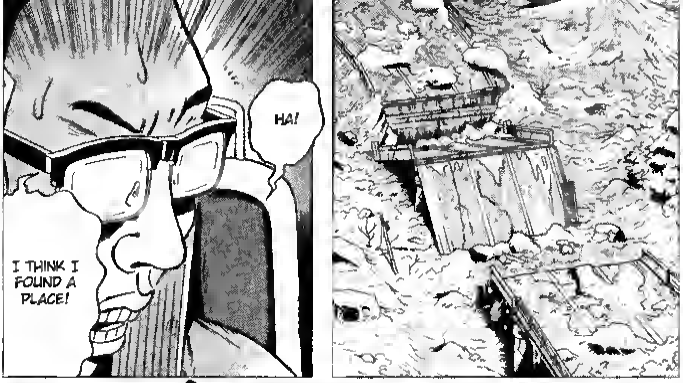

HA...
I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT THAT HUGE HOLE, AND I FELT DIZZY...


THE GROUND IS CUT IN HALF!!!
SHIT! DID YOU SEE THAT!?




NO ONE ALIVE HERE!
THERE'S DEFINITELY...
YEAH... THE TEMPERATURE DROPS...
THE AMOUNT OF ASH IS INCREDIBLE! DON'T YOU THINK IT'S GETTING COLDER, ALL OF A SUDDEN?
THIS IS INCREDIBLE!
WE LEFT SOME WITH THE OLD LADY... WHICH WAS STRAIGHTFORWARD.
YES, WE ONLY HAVE A FEW GOODS AND WATER LEFT...
WE SHOULD LAND SOMEWHERE!
WE'RE STARTING TO FREEZE!
THE ASH CLOUDS ARE MUCH HIGHER HERE. THEY'RE BLOCKING THE SUNLIGHT RAYS!


DADA
DADA
DADA
DADA
HMMM... LET'S SEE...


HA!
I THINK I FOUND A PLACE!

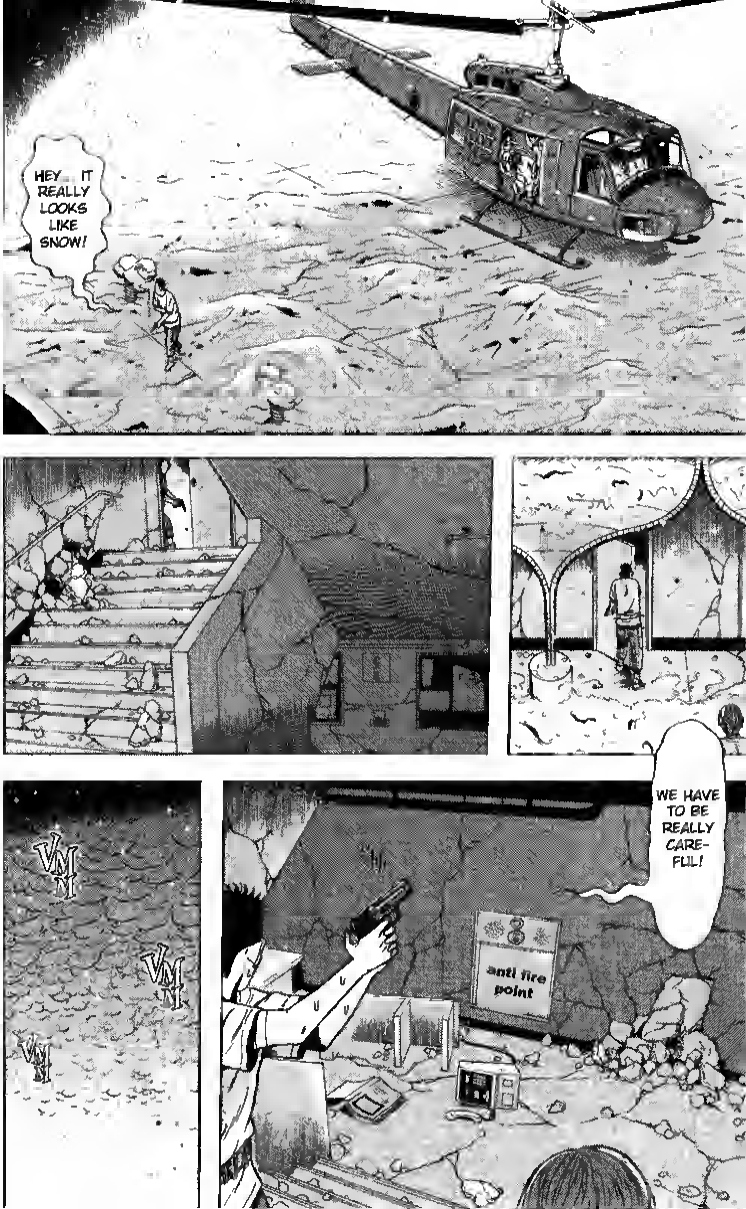

DA DA
DA DA DA DA


DA DA DA DA DA DA

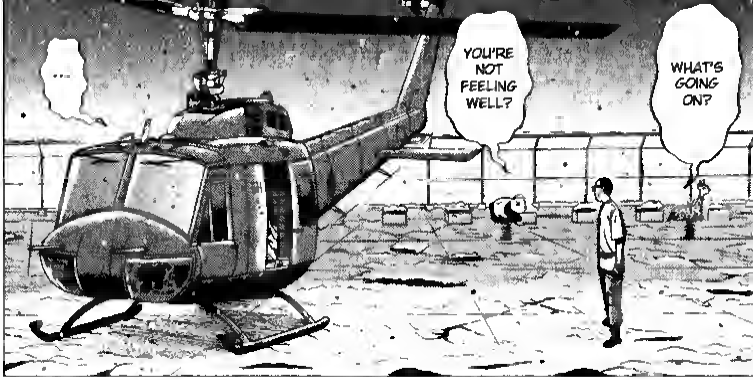

YES!
MAYBE WE'LL FIND FOOD THERE! I'M GOING TO LAND ON THE ROOF.
THIS IS A BIG SHOPPING MALL, LIKE THE ONES IN THE SUBURBS OF TOKYO.
I'M GONNA TRY NOT TO SHAKE US TOO MUCH!
DA DA
DA DA
DA DA
DA DA


TA TA
TA TA
TA TA
TA TA
VM VM
VM VM
VM VM
BLO MMMMMM
VM VM
VM VM
VM VM

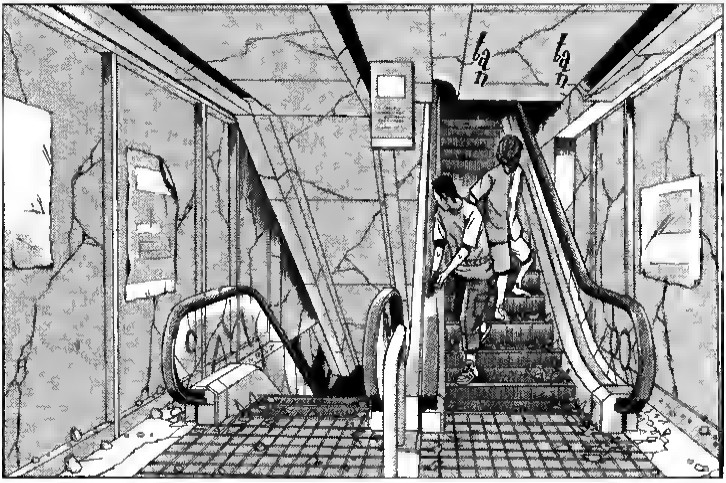

VMM
VMM
VMM
VMM
AND THEY MIGHT HAVE GONE CRAZY, LIKE THE ONES WE MET IN IZU.
IF THERE ARE SURVIVORS AROUND, THEY SHOULD HAVE HEARD THE NOISE OF OUR HELICOPTER.
I'M GONNA CHECK INSIDE. WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL BECAUSE WE ONLY HAVE ONE WEAPON LEFT.
STRES
AND YOU, KID, COME WITH ME!
BE READY TO TAKE OFF IMMEDIATELY!


HEY... IT REALLY LOOKS LIKE SNOW!
anti fire point
WE HAVE TO BE REALLY CARE-FUL!


WHICH WILL SOON COVER THE CENTER OF TOKYO.
IT'S TRUE, IT'S LIKE LARGE SNOW-FLAKES... A SNOW WHICH DOES NOT MELT
EH
EARTH DEFENSE FORCE







END OF VOLUME 7. TO BE CONTINUED.